

Bigger scheme proposed despite previous fears

80-BED CARE HOME PLAN AT EX-WORKS

Report by Nathan Briant

AN 80-bedroom care home could be built on a former industrial site in Walsall, despite planners' concerns about a smaller scheme which received outline permission.

Restful Homes Developments has submitted plans to Walsall Council planning chiefs to build the care home off Chester Road, near Walsall Wood.

The firm was granted outline permission for a controversial 58-bedroom care home last year but now wants to increase that number to 80, however, it will now be moved to the back of the site.

Developers admit council chiefs 'had concerns' about the size of the previous application on the Block Works site - and say the building's scale has increased slightly in comparison to the scheme that got the go-ahead.

But it said the way it will be moved back towards the back of the site will mean it is a 'much more sensitive solution' than the one accepted in February 2016.

Optimum

It is also surrounded by mature trees which would make it difficult to see from Chester Road. Access to the site would be about 220 metres to the north-west of the junction of Chester Road with Castlehill Road.

It is about a kilometre to the south-east of the junction of Chester Road and Lichfield Road at Shire Oak. The company's architects, Warwick-based Robothams, said residents living nearby in Stonnall, which is about three-quarters of a kilometre away, would not be able to see the site. Planning documents say the project would be 'an optimum size for a care home' and as a result would be cost effective.

A kitchen, laundry and plant areas would all be included on the ground floor at the back of the state-of-the-art building. A 40-space car park would also be built to be used by the care home's staff, residents and visitors.

Robothams' documents state: "Distance separation and overlooking are not considered to be an issue and therefore there is no negative impact upon any neighbouring dwellings. Surrounding the site is a belt of mature trees which is approximately 15m in depth, which means there is almost no visibility into or out of the site from beyond the site boundary."

Surrey-based Restful Homes Developments cares for about 750 people around the UK and will open a new home in Sutton Coldfield mid-way through 2017.

AN UPLIFTING MEETING WITH WEIGHTLIFTER STU



Uplifting - strongman Stu Goldcrusher, of Tettenhall, with workers Jas Nangla, of Penn, and Andy Waldron, of Halesowen

WORKERS and charities got a surprising lift when strongman Stu Goldcrusher visited a Willenhall wholesaler.

The weightlifter powered in to AF Blakemore & Son Ltd with his latest challenge and saw his fundraising tally hit more than £150,000.

Stu, who appeared on Britain's Got Talent in 2008, has raised £158,000 for Promise Dreams since 2003.

His latest feat saw him lift workers at the Willenhall wholesale company using the same apparatus as when he lifted up Ant and

Dec on the TV show. This latest fundraiser brought in more than £300 for his cause.

The 48-year-old said: "After appearing on the show, the clip of me went worldwide.

"It's brilliant to now therefore be in a position to help others."

He continued: "I've got 20 letters from members of the Royal family congratulating me on my charity work. I even received a letter from Prince Philip mentioning my performance which I gave to Simon Cowell."

Stu, of Wolverhampton, began his career as a strongman more than 15 years ago after

winning a tyre-flipping competition. The prize was a free gym membership which enabled him to become a professional strongman.

He has raised money in a variety of ways including pulling the 19-tonne Blackpool tram along the promenade with a harness in 2003 for Cancer Research UK. As a result, he was included in the Blackpool Tower hall of fame for being the only man to pull the tram in the last 100 years.

Other charities he has supported include Compton Hospice, Cancer Research UK and The Elton John Aids Foundation.

TRAGEDY

Family pays tribute to accident victim Ryan

THE family of 'keen and talented footballer' Ryan Coney, who was killed in a car crash, have paid tribute to him.

The 22-year-old died when the Suzuki Swift he was a passenger in smashed into a wall in Lichfield Road, Walsall at 7pm on Saturday.



Ryan Coney

In a statement his family said: "Ryan was the much loved youngest son of Peter and Vivienne; and younger brother to Lee, Jemma and Tank.

"He was a keen and talented footballer who was much loved by all who were blessed to have met him."

Three others in the car had non-life threatening injuries. Witnesses are urged to ring 101 quoting log 1970 of February 11.

CRIME

Gunshots fired at windows of home

GUNSHOTS were fired into the home of a house in Walsall smashing two windows.

No-one was injured in the attack on Sunday evening at Alexandra Road.

Det Sgt Paul Cook said: "Officers attended the scene and discovered two windows had been smashed at a home in the street. This has been confirmed as the result of a gun being fired.

"We believe this was a targeted attack. No arrests have been made at this stage."

Anyone with information should call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

BUSINESS

£1,500 bill for taxi firm hit by vandals

VANDALS have caused around £1,500 worth of damage to property belonging to a taxi firm, according to bosses.

Go Carz has been hit by vandalism on numerous occasions since the firm started operating Walsall, with the latest cases last week following on from another over the Christmas and New Year period.

An advertising vehicle parked in Lower Villars Street in Blakenhall had a light smashed on Monday, while another vehicle had a banner slashed and ripped off while parked in Wolverhampton Road, Walsall.

INSIDE

Fan's trucking on for Brum Run



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School praised for its improvements

A FAILING Walsall school is making good progress in dragging itself out of special measures, Ofsted has said.

West Walsall E-ACT academy, which caters for around 700 pupils, was put in special measures after serious failings were found at the school. But after a recent inspection education watchdog bosses have said the school is making progress and can now employ new teachers – something that had previously been banned.

The school was rated inadequate in 2014 and again in March last year.

After that inspection the school was rated inadequate overall including being rated inadequate for its leadership, quality of teaching, pupil outcomes and behaviour.

However a new report released this week has revealed the school is now making progress towards coming out of special measures.

Inspector Peter Humphries, who visited the school with fellow inspector Peter Wilkes, said in a report prepared after last month's visit: "Having considered all the evidence, I am of the opinion that at this time

that leaders and managers are taking effective action towards the removal of special measures. The trust's statement of action and the school's improvement plan are fit for purpose."

In 2015 the school was banned from appointing any new teachers due to its failings, but this has now been lifted. Mr Humphries said: "I am of the opinion that the school may appoint four newly qualified teachers, one each to the English, mathematics, science and humanities departments."

In praising new headteacher

Qamar Riaz, Mr Humphries added: "Since the previous inspection, there have been significant changes to the teaching and leadership teams. You acted swiftly and effectively to address many of the areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection in March 2016."

Mr Riaz said: "The report acts as a useful benchmark to acknowledge the significant progress the Academy has made. However, I am not complacent and acknowledge that further progress and improvements are needed in the coming weeks and months."

Fraudster told repay £70k or return to jail

A CROOKED Black Country accountant has been warned she is going back to prison if she does not pay back more than £70,000 in the next three months.

Gail Henshall was jailed for two years eight months in August 2015 for her part in a near £300,000 tax fiddle.

She is now free again having been released from the sentence on licence and returned to Wolverhampton Crown Court for the Proceeds of Crime (POCA) hearing.

Judge Barry Berlin ruled that Henshall – aged 50 and from Willenhall – had personally made £150,000 from the fraud. And it was heard how she still had assets worth £71,000 that could be seized. He ordered her to pay back that amount of money in three months or face a further 18 months in jail.

The cash will come from her share of equity in her matrimonial home – valued at almost £53,500 – a £2,500 Ford Escort and £15,980 from a tax free Isa savings account, revealed Mr Stefan Kolodynski, prosecuting.

Laundered

He also disclosed that the 'headline figure' of the fraud had been reduced by £42,000 through 'reconciliation' of accounts since the total was initially said to be £296,025. The mother of two's cafe owner lover Mario Troisi, who laundered money from the fiddle through his bank account, had made £54,000 from the racket, reducing her share of the ill gotten gains to £200,000.

Mr Kolodynski told the Proceeds of Crime (POCA) hearing: "The POCA officials have been pragmatic in trying to reach a compromise and have reduced the figure for her personal benefit from the offence by a further £50,000 to £150,000."

Henshall, who later moved to Hazel Grove, Bilston, pleaded guilty to two charges of fraud in abuse of a position of trust between 2010 and 2014.

End of an era as centre flattened



Flattened rubble is all that remains at the site of the old Oak Park leisure centre in Walsall Wood

IT is the end of an era for Walsall as the old Oak Park Leisure Centre has now been completely flattened.

The old centre, which had been the subject of an arson attack earlier this year, is now just rubble as it sits minutes away from a new multi-million pound leisure centre.

The opening of the new Oak Park Active Living Centre spelt the end of Oak Park Leisure Centre, which, despite being popular among residents, was becoming dated and in need of an upgrade – according to

local councillors. The site, off Lichfield Road in Walsall Wood, had been earmarked for demolition last year but this was accelerated after arsonists struck last month.

The demolition work was carried out by Wednesbury-based contractor NCP Humphries Demolition. Councillor Keith Sears, who represents Walsall Wood, said it was the 'end of an era' but added it was time for the centre to be replaced.

He said: "The old leisure centre was good but it was past its sell-by

date. We campaigned to have it replaced by a new one which it has been. It is the end of an era but the start of a new one. It is sad to see it go of course but the future looks brighter with the new one."

Commenting on the old building, fellow Walsall Wood Councillor Anthony Harris, said: "It served its useful purpose but it was well past its sell-by date. The new Oak Park Active Living Centre is tremendous and I am very pleased with it. Walsall should be very proud."

Ikea looks to expand car park for customers

FURNITURE giant Ikea has lodged plans to increase car parking spaces at its Black Country store by nearly a fifth.

The Swedish firm wants to open up land at its site in Park Lane, Wednesbury to create a new 172-space car park.

Currently the store has a 1,027-space car park – but developers insist it will not mean any more visitors. The company concedes the number of spaces for motorists is currently 'inadequate' and that roads nearby are often clogged by traffic most weekends and bank holidays as people struggle to get to its warehouse.

It wants to build the new car park, which would increase its parking spaces by 17 per cent, on land next to its home delivery warehouse. The lane is currently empty and cleared. A new access road would be built to link the existing customer car park to divert traffic around Ikea's home delivery area.

In planning documents, the applicant states: "The proposals will enable the store to provide an adequate level of car parking to meet operational needs and reduce congestion on the surrounding highway network."

"The purpose is to improve the flow of traffic to, from and around the car park and to improve the shopping experience for existing customers."

Just one person said they were opposed to the plans when the company consulted residents – but no reason for the opposition was given. Walsall Council planning chiefs will decide on the application at a later date.

Cannabis found after fire starts

A HAUL of cannabis was found when fire broke out in a flat above a shop in Walsall.

Around 15 plants were found above the Affordable Signs shop in High Street, Walsall Wood, by fire crews.

Smoke billowed out of the windows of the first floor flat, just after the blaze broke out at the weekend.

A cause of the fire has not yet been identified.

Craig Hughes, West Midlands Police spokesman, said: "Around 15 plants were discovered and further inquiries are being carried out at the minute. No one has been arrested at this stage."

Crews from Walsall Wood and Aldridge were in attendance.

No-one was thought to have been injured.

Delays after lorry and car in collision

DRIVERS faced delays on the main road in Brownhills after a crash between and car and a lorry. The silver Peugeot 206 and LGV crashed around 1.40pm Monday on Ogley Road, which links Brownhills and Burntwood, at the junction with High Street. No-one was injured.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Call for M6 Toll nationalisation

A LEADING business figure is calling for a fresh look at nationalising the M6 Toll after reports that sale plans have stalled. Corin Crane, chief executive of the Black Country Chamber, said: "Almost every business we speak to in the Black Country mentions congestion and movement of goods as one of their key issues."

"We desperately need to make better use of the M6 Toll and public ownership may help avoid the critical delays that will become commonplace once improvements to the M6 and M5 take place in the coming years."

Old bank odds on to become bookies

A FORMER bank which has been empty for more than two years will be turned into a bookmakers if a plan gets the green light.

Barclays moved out of the unit at 69-73 High Street in Brownhills in October 2014 and it has been vacant since then despite being offered to let on the open market.

If Coral gets the go-ahead for their new branch, it would rebuild the building's shop front and fix two satellite dishes to its front flat roof.

A decision will be made by Walsall Council later.

Strawbs ready for Robin 2 gig

FOLK band the Strawbs will be appearing live at the Robin 2 music venue. Having emerged out of the British folk movement of the mid-1960s, the band eventually had mainstream success with albums such as *Bursting at the Seams* in 1973, having started life as the Strawberry Hill Boys playing bluegrass.

Tickets are available in advance for £16 or £17.50 on the doors, which open at 7.30pm. Call 01902 401211 or book at www.therobin.co.uk

Homes on way at Victorian building

PLANS to convert a Victorian building being used as offices into homes have been approved.

Walsall Council has given the green light for a 'change the use' of 66 Lysons Street, near Caldmore. Under the scheme, the building will be converted into five 'high-quality' flats.

A planning statement reads: "The applicant wishes to create high quality residential accommodation suitable for business users, well positioned for the towns' facilities."

Commuter delays

DELAYS are expected on one of Wolverhampton's busiest commuter routes.

Restrictions will on Stafford Road southbound between Three Tuns Lane and Mercury Drive while work is carried out on a cycle lane. Signals will be in place from 9.30am-3.30pm.

Hospital's Greggs gets salad days under way

LESS of the sausage rolls and cheese and onion pasties – more with the fruit, salads and porridge.

Greggs has launched its first 'healthy shop' at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton. It is the first of its kind in the country.

The Greggs bakery at the hospital was found to be the second busiest in the country three years ago. And this week, the firm launched its healthier shop format at the hospital. Bosses say it is designed to meet NHS England's targets on food sold in hospitals.

The new store layout sees a wider selection of the firm's 'balanced choice' range of sandwiches, wraps, yoghurts and soups. It has reduced the number of high fat, sugar and salt products on display at the checkout.

Although sausage rolls and doughnuts are still on sale.

Greggs chief executive Roger Whiteside said: "We have been busy developing a healthier shop format at New Cross Hospital to meet NHS England targets on healthy checkouts, food advertising and price promotions in hospitals and are proud to have to achieved joint second place in a league table."

Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust chief executive David Loughton said: "It is important that patients, visitors and staff have a variety of choice when it comes to the food that they wish to eat and in a hospital setting it is important that there are a number of healthy options on offer." Greggs opened at the hospital in 2013.

MP welcomes funding boost

VALERIE Vaz has welcomed a funding boost that will enable local authorities to improve roads around the region.

The Walsall South MP said she wants to see government money for road improvement schemes used to improve safety on a number of routes. She has vowed to back any application for funding from Walsall Council.

Labour's Shadow Commons leader said she has written to the authority's chief executive to raise concerns about roads including Walstead Road, Delves Crescent, West Bromwich Road, Old Hall Lane and Pinfold Lane.

Ms Vaz said she has arranged a meeting with the council to discuss safety issues.

Traffic lights on road for works

ROADWORKS have got under way, with temporary traffic signals in place until next Tuesday. The gas main project is being carried out by Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions on Hall Street, Darlaston.

1,500 names on petition to save library



Councillor Garry Perry at the meeting

MORE than 1,500 people have now signed a petition in a campaign to save Pelsall library from the axe.

It comes after some 100 people attended a public meeting against the closure of the multi-million pound library. Opened five years ago by Prince Edward, it is one of nine in the borough earmarked for closure under revised cuts by council chiefs.

Concerned residents of all ages gathered in a bid to protect the future of the library, situated inside the Pelsall Village Centre. Councillors Marco Longhi, Oliver Bennett and Garry

Perry handed out copies of a draft letter which will be sent to cabinet members calling for the library to be saved.

Councillor Perry, who has served as a Pelsall councillor for nearly 19 years, reassured residents that a 'plan' was in place to keep it open.

He explained: "Working together is the only way through people power that we will influence change at cabinet level. We need to keep our library open. I don't think I have ever been to a public meeting that has gathered as much support as this. Borrowing books may have reduced but the li-

brary is more than a book and that is the message we need to get across."

The letter devised by the three ward councillors suggests that Pelsall Library should be given the same status as District Libraries or Streetly Library which now has a 'hub status' and is community led.

The online version of the petition against Pelsall's closure, which has some 1,560 names on, can be viewed at you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-pelsall-library. It will be handed to cabinet members at a meeting on February 25.

New moves to clamp down on litter revealed

LITTER patrols across Walsall are being stepped up and more council staff being used to help tidy up the town.

Private enforcement firm 3GS began clamping down on dog fouling, fly tipping and littering from September last year.

Nearly £1,000 worth of fines were dished out in just over a month as Walsall Council looked to clamp down on mess.

Now council leader Sean Coughlan says seven frontline posts will be reinstated to the authority's clean and green services.

He said the workers will 'reduce levels of deterioration' across the borough due to littering and added: "We propose to reinstate seven front line posts to maintain cleaner streets with a greater focus on more frequent litter picking to maintain higher standards."

"We also intend to give residents more of a heads-up so that they know the days which will be set aside for neighbourhood areas to be cleaned. This will enable us greater opportunity to work with community groups and volunteers to coordinate these community clean-up days."

Increased

"Hot spot areas will be targeted at intervals throughout the year and we will continue to support communities in tackling environmental crime with fly tip removal and increased enforcement activity."

Last year the council stated around 30 tons of rubbish were dumped in the borough every week costing in the region of £120,000 a year to clean it up. As well as carrying out conspicuous investigations officers from 3GS provide a visible presence patrolling the streets, parks and open spaces.

They have legal powers to stop anyone committing an environmental crime and will request their name, address and proof of identity. Anyone refusing to be co-operative can be prosecuted under the Environmental Protection Act which can result in a £1,000 fine.

Protesters gathered outside Walsall Council house to voice their concern over a budget proposal set to be finalised on February 23 that will see £86 million drained from resources over four years. The cuts will see hundreds of jobs and nine libraries go, while council tax put up nearly five per cent. Mr Coughlan said: "We have listened to the people, communities and businesses of Walsall and taken on board what they have said very carefully."

Brave Tommy bounces back with Elle



Meningitis sufferer Tommy Brown, aged five, enjoys himself on the trampoline with his big sister Elle

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD triple amputee from the Black Country has adapted to life without limbs thanks to his doting big sister.

Tommy Brown, from Walsall, only has one pair of prosthetic legs, which do not bend, so he has learned to get around on his stumps.

He lost one arm, the fingers on his left hand and both legs to a deadly strain of meningitis – but he refuses to allow it to hold him back and has a new-found love for his trampoline. After being given a five per cent chance of survival, it's hard to believe Tommy almost

died when he's seen enjoying life to the fullest with his big sister, Elle, aged 14.

The pair are inseparable and she tries to spend as much time as she can with him. His mother, Julie Tuckley, 41, said: "Tommy loves bouncing on the trampoline with his big sister and it makes me so proud seeing him laughing and enjoying himself."

"We came so close to losing him to meningitis, his body turned purple and his limbs were black. That's when we were given the dreaded news that without losing his limbs he wouldn't survive.

Now he's getting older he asks, 'why did you let them take my legs mummy?'

"But I know if we didn't, he wouldn't be here today. He's our little miracle and despite still being on a waiting list for home adaptations, Tommy is always smiling and even attends a mainstream school."

"Him and Elle are inseparable and he loves playing games with her. We are currently trying to make Tommy's life easier by raising money for his lifelong treatment." To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/qpj3as

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COUNTY NEWS

Victims of FGM are urged to speak out

WOMEN and girls affected by female genital mutilation are being urged to speak out as part of a new campaign.

The No Choice, No Voice campaign has been launched by the police to stop the practice of FGM. The campaign states as its opening message: "FGM It's happening here, it's happening now to girls in the West Midlands... and it's criminal #FGMletstalk."

Police can be called on 101 or @CrimestoppersUK anonymously on 0800 555 111, or there is the NSPCC helpline on 0800 028 3550. For details, search #FGMletstalk on Twitter.

Business expert is chief of board

THE Chartered Management Institute (CMI) has named the Dean of the Business School at University College Birmingham (UCB), Dilshad Sheikh, as the new Chair of its West Midlands Board.

The Dean of the Business School has been appointed for a two-year term, taking over from Services Business Executive for Rolls-Royce, Andrea Pisoni. Dilshad said: "I am absolutely delighted. I am very much looking forward to making a positive contribution with measurable impacts to the region."

Candidate Simon in police pledge

LABOUR'S West Midlands mayoral candidate says he is committed to protecting police numbers as he vowed to improve public safety.

Simon Simon says he will 'contrast the complacency shown by ministers in London' and tackle 'everyday crime', such as violence and intimidation, spitting and smoking on public transport.

He added: "We have the right to feel safe where we live. That means doing all I can to defend police numbers."

Skydiving on horizon in £20m plan for NEC

THE owner of Alton Towers plans to open a £20 million adventure centre at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre that could include a skydiving experience.

Merlin Attractions, the company that is also behind Legoland Resort, wants to build the Project Thor centre at The Pavilion, next to the Genting Arena. It would also feature a high ropes course. The centre would be aimed at teenagers and young adults, according to a planning application.

Elvis for One Night

AN award-winning Elvis tribute is coming to Bilston next month. Gordon Davis has won Images of the King in Memphis. He will be at the Robin 2 on Saturday, March 11. Tickets are £15 in advance, £17.50 on the door, at the box office on 01902 401211 or on www.the-robin.co.uk.

Cancer consultation day hailed success

MORE than 30 patients living with and beyond cancer have attended a consultation day at Walsall Manor Hospital to improve communication with staff.

The patients were asked to put forward their ideas on how to improve things between themselves and staff as part of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's engagement work programme 'Listening into Action' which aims to

bring about positive changes across the service.

Lung cancer survivor Phil Booker, one of the patients who attended the conversation, said the event helped 'expand' his thinking and defeat some of the fear that cancer patients suffer with. He said: "When you have cancer, you tend to get tunnel vision and are frightened to go out and progress. This event has helped expand

my thinking and has given people the chance to talk."

Common potential areas of improvement included accessibility of information, improving messages so that patients do not feel overwhelmed or unnecessarily frightened and improving general communication from the trust to maintain a positive reputation. Marie Secker and Juliet Tipton who also attended the conversation

felt that positive changes will follow.

Ms Secker said: "The conversation was very helpful and very good. Hopefully, through today, things will be dealt with, although it's all been very positive."

Ms Tipton added: "People were very engaged. More people turned up than they thought which shows how much people care. I am sure a lot will come out of it."

Tragedy as nine dogs die in wooden kennel blaze

Report by Richard Guttridge

NINE dogs died and a man was taken to hospital after a blaze ripped through a kennel in a back garden.

A 66-year-old man, thought to be the dogs' owner, tried in vain to rescue them from the fire and suffered smoke inhalation.

Firefighters put out the blaze in the wooden structure behind a house in Lichfield Road, New Invention. The dogs were all Chihuahuas, three of which were puppies.

Paramedics took the man to New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton as a precaution after he made a desperate attempt to save the family pets following the fire at about 5pm on Wednesday. He had tried to save the dogs by entering the kennel, which measured six metres by three metres.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokeswoman said it was totally destroyed as a result of the fire.

Ambulances

Neighbours described seeing flames leaping into the air from the back garden. Smoke filled the air as rescue teams arrived to battle the blaze, which one resident said was 'massive'.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "The call came from the fire service. The fire had started in the back garden in something that seems to be used as a kennel and there was a number of deceased dogs."

"We sent two ambulances to the scene and we transported a 66-year-old man. He had gone into the shed to try to rescue the dogs. He suffered smoke inhalation and reddening of the skin caused by the fire so he was taken to New Cross Hospital as a precaution. He was given oxygen and some drugs to free up his airways."

A woman who lives in the street, and did not want to be named, said: "I saw all the flames and the smoke. The fire was massive." Another neighbour, Dennis Bate, aged 65, said: "I saw the fire engines. Some neighbours called the fire brigade. The shed is a charred ruin. It's tragic what has happened."

Another resident, who didn't want to give his name, said: "The flames were about roof height. It's dreadful."

20 fridges and freezers left in lane



A council worker at the site of the dumped kitchen appliances in Barr Lakes Lane, near Aldridge

A HAUL of more than 20 fridges and freezers were dumped in the middle of a country road. A vehicle was caught on CCTV driving down Barr Lakes Lane, near Aldridge, and leaving the 21 industrial-sized items. The lane is a notorious fly-tipping hotspot.

The 'dangerous' load was dumped last Monday afternoon and has since been cleared by Walsall Council. The local authority is now offering an award for information leading to the identification of those responsible.

Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick, portfolio holder for community, leisure and culture, said: "This is a blatant and dangerous act of fly-tipping in an area where signage states CCTV is in operation."

"Unfortunately, the vehicle in the



Do you recognise this lorry?

image does not appear to be displaying a registration plate. However, it is quite distinctive and by releasing the image we hope that residents may recognise it and help us to

identify the perpetrators. If anyone is able to help in identifying the vehicle, and this leads to a successful prosecution, the council would be delighted to reward the person concerned with £100."

Barr Lakes Lane has been subject to repeated fly-tipping incidents.

Councillor Chris Jones, portfolio holder for Clean and Green, said: "I'm really impressed with how quickly Clean and Green got staff on site and started clearing away the fridges."

"However, I'm not so impressed that Walsall tax-payers are having to fund clean ups like this."

Contact the council via communityprotection@walsall.gov.uk, or 01922 653060.

Action due on eyesore Brown Jug pub owners

WALSALL Council is to use its enforcement powers to force the owners of a pub labelled 'an eyesore' and 'a blight to the community' to take action to clear up the site.

The Brown Jug, on Sandbeds Road, Willenhall, has stood empty since 2012, with the site becoming a target for vandals and anti-social behaviour over the years, while plans to build a supermarket in its place were rejected by council planning bosses.

Local councillors have long called for action to be taken and it is understood that during a private session at a recent planning committee meeting, Walsall Council decided it would be using its enforcement powers to force the landowners to clean up the site.

Councillor Ian Shires, who represents Willenhall North, says he thinks the site needs to be knocked down.

He said: "Land owners need to step up to the plate in situations like this."

"Sites like the former Brown Jug on Sandbeds Road are an eyesore and a blight on this part of Short Heath. As a council will do all we can to help developers where it's in the best interests of the local area. But it takes two to tango and if developers aren't prepared to act in a responsibly then we feel that the council should go aggressive and take all action possible including compulsory purchase to get a good outcome for local residents."

"The council could not confirm who the owners of the site are but said: "The council has already served the s215 notice on the owner and will seek to ensure that it is complied with."

'Girlfriend' call on road safety

WALSALL Council is launching a road safety campaign which reminds young drivers of the potentially catastrophic consequences of inappropriate driving behaviour.

'For My Girlfriend' is a Black Country scheme which aims to bring home the terrible consequences for drivers and passengers when things go wrong.

The campaign will encourage young drivers to take responsibility for their passengers as well as encouraging passengers to speak out if they find themselves in a situation in a car in which they feel uncomfortable.

Councillor Lee Jeavons said: "As a parent of children in the age group this campaign is aimed at, I'm really on board with this message and hope it will help give young people pause for thought."

Restaurant site store plan shelved

A PLAN to build a supermarket next to a restaurant has been withdrawn.

The owners of the Jeevan Jyot Indian restaurant in Plock Road, Walsall, have pulled the plug on the application, which had been submitted to Walsall council in August.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Travellers set up camp at car park

TRAVELLERS set up camp at a car park in Willenhall which is used by mourners, businesses, shoppers and truckers.

Nine caravans and other vehicles were spotted at the Wakes Ground car park, Walsall Street, last Tuesday afternoon. A notice asking them to leave was served on Wednesday morning.

They were still on site during the afternoon, with a councillor claiming it could take more than a week to legally move the group on.

Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick, portfolio holder for community, leisure and culture, said: "Officers attended the Wakes Ground car and lorry park on Wednesday morning.

"A notice was served to vacate the land on Wednesday morning. I do understand the frustration that unauthorised encampments cause, but we must follow the correct legal process."

Driver admits causing injury

A 29-YEAR-OLD man has admitted causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Leighton Doughty from Dangerfield Lane, Darlaston pleaded guilty to causing serious injury to Lee Butler in Milfields Road, Bilston on April 20 last year when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

No evidence was presented at the hearing but Mr Butler is understood to have been a passenger in a car when it crashed.

Doughty was remanded on bail for a pre sentence report until February 28 but was warned by Judge Barry Berlin: "Do not think that because I am giving you bail you will be let out on sentence. The chances are that this will be an immediate custodial sentence."

Planners reject nursery scheme

AN application to build a nursery behind a football ground in Willenhall has been rejected by planning bosses.

Developers had wanted to use single and double storey buildings as a nursery behind the Aspray 24 Arena, the home of Sporting Khalsa FC.

Walsall Council said the Noose Lane application had 'failed to demonstrate that there are no more centrally located sites within an established town centre or that there is a local need for the facility'.

The application also lacked any information about any ground gas protection measures or any information about the required Coal Mining Risk Assessment.

60s concert due

A TRIBUTE to 60s legends Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons will get toes tapping in Walsall on Friday.

The Ragdolls will perform at Arena Aldridge. It runs from 7.30pm until 11.45pm. Tickets cost from £8.

Councils to take on 150 refugees over 5 years

NEARLY 150 refugees from war-torn Syria will be taken in by Black Country local authorities over the next five years. Wolverhampton Council has pledged to help 100 people by 2020, while Dudley will accommodate 20 over the next five years.

Walsall will take in 20 until May. Staffordshire County Council has already taken in 51 people from the Middle Eastern country, while Dudley has housed two families.

Prime Minister Theresa May declared that the UK would resettle up to 20,000 refugees from the Middle East and North Africa by 2020.

Around 400,000 people have been killed in Syria since the war between the Government and rebels began almost six years ago, the United Nations estimates. Thousands have fled their homeland since the war, with many taking treacherous and life-threatening journeys across the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe.

Walsall North MP David Winnick said: "I think people on the whole, with some exceptions, will recognise the plight of those involved."

"When one considers what those people have been through in Syria, it is difficult to understand why there should be any protest about this. If anyone thinks I am going to stir up hostility to those who face nightmares which we would find hard to imagine then they can think again."

Refugees are assessed on their vulnerability before coming to the UK, and are resettled under the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

Domestic abuse move by council

WALSALL Council was due to cut domestic abuse funding by 20 per cent, according to a report. The authority's cabinet, including Councillor Diane Coughlan who is responsible for social care, was due to approve the move.

If approved, funding would be reduced by £50,000 to £188,886 a year, resulting in the loss of a dedicated children and young persons worker. A report said concerns were raised about the move during a consultation exercise. The council has stated the current service is only '86 per cent utilised' and the reduction in units will 'remove waste'.

Councillor Coughlan, said: "Domestic abuse is, and always will be, one of our top priorities. The new level of service will be much more efficient."

Art of town put in gallery frame

AN exhibition of artwork depicting Walsall which has been collected since 1892 is to be launched on Saturday at the New Art Gallery. It marks the permanent collection's 125th anniversary. The launch is from from 1-3pm.

Barry the Bolt gets set to be a starter



Intrepid runner Barinderjit Cheema

WALSALL'S answer to Usain Bolt will be at Hagley Hall in Dudley next month, to officially start charity races for the Stroke Association.

IT support worker, Barinderjit Cheema, is set to officially start the Stroke Association's 5k, 10k and 15k Resolution Run at 11am on Sunday, March 5. Barry enters long distance events as Usingh Bolt, after his cousin coined the nickname. The Resolution Run is the latest in his fundraising venture, when he'll be officially open the event for more than 400 runners. He was inspired to raise funds

for the charity after his friend Neil Thompson passed away after a stroke in 2015, just before his 40th birthday.

Barry said: "Neil was a close friend from my school days and it really hit home how a stroke can affect anybody at any age. Sadly Neil didn't survive, leaving behind a wife and two children. The Stroke Association was there for the Thompson family."

"My father also had a stroke in 1992 just before he turned 40. It was touch and go as to whether he would survive, but fortunately he did. His stroke was very serious and physically

he is still impacted, but thanks to the support we received from the Stroke Association and some wonderful medical professionals, he has been able to carry on with his life and he is still mobile."

To sponsor Barry, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/usinghbolt2017> or text USNG50 5 to 70070. Entry fee is just £15. All runners receive a technical running T-shirt and medal.

For details visit www.stroke.org.uk/resolution, email resolution@stroke.org.uk or call 0300 330 0740.

Manor hospital trust's chief in vow to improve

THE boss of Walsall Manor Hospital has said 2017 will be 'an important year' as it looks to implement improvement plans to address damning failings exposed by a watchdog.

The ruling trust was placed into special measures in January 2016 after it was inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and has since been forming a plan to get out as soon as possible.

Speaking at a board meeting, chief executive Richard Kirby, said: "As the board will be aware, 2017 will be an important year for the Trust and the start of year provides an opportunity to ensure that everyone in the organisation and our key external stakeholders understands the vision that we have developed over the last 12 months."

"We are arranging a series of events during February and March to ensure that as many of our colleagues as possible have an opportunity to work with us to shape the next stage of the development of our strategy to enable us to deliver this vision successfully."

Significant

Mr Kirby also expressed his gratitude to staff for their work so far during a busy winter period, saying: "I would like to say a big thank you to all our colleagues who have worked hard over the winter to date for all that they have done to keep our patients safe and well cared for during this period."

"As we expected we faced significant pressure on capacity across our hospital and community services especially over the holiday period and I am grateful to everyone for the way they have responded."

The CQC rated the Trust 'Inadequate' last year. Inspectors declared that 'significant improvement' was immediately needed in a number of areas including maternity services and emergency care.

It stated whistleblowers told the watchdog there was a 'heavy handed' approach from senior management which they said bordered on a bullying culture.

The trust's consistent failure to hit A&E waiting time targets was also a major issue, as the number of patients treated within the four hour national target fell below expectations.

The report suggested that high workloads in the emergency department and maternity had resulted in care falling below the standards patients should be able to expect.

Chef's team all fired up after awards



From right, head chef Steve Biggs, with his team Paul Ingleby, George Cooke, Ben Griffiths and Lee Millington

A BLACK Country restaurant is celebrating after being placed highly in the Business of the Year awards.

The Littleton, based at Walsall College's main Wisemore campus on Littleton Street West, scooped the awards at the ceremony organised by thebestof - a national marketing organisation committed to raising the profile of local, independent and recommended businesses. During the campaign,

people were asked to show their support for their favourite local business by submitting a review of the service they had received.

Nationally over 37,000 verified reviews were left for businesses who had qualified to take part. Locally, the Littleton restaurant came second in the 'Restaurant of the Year' category and was placed 51st in the whole of the UK.

Head Chef Steve Biggs, said: "We are absolutely delighted to

have received these accolades based on customer reviews. We have been open for less than 18 months so to have received such an esteemed reputation is incredible"

The Littleton was opened as part of the college's £11 million business and sports hub. The 40-seat bistro offers a contemporary menu of British inspired cuisine, using fresh food focusing on locally sourced ingredients.

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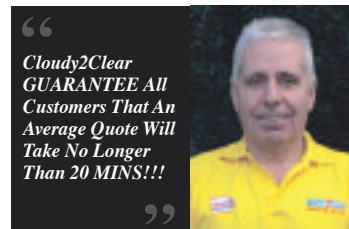
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Storing up problems by shuffling the stock

DONE your weekly shop at Tesco over the weekend? Might not be a bad idea to check your receipt. According to an excellent investigation by the BBC's Inside Out programme, 33 out of the 50 Tesco stores they visited were advertising things for one price on the shelves, but charging them another at the till.

There is no suggestion of any intent, and when the investigators challenged shop assistants in this neck of the woods, they invariably blamed staff shortages.

In which case, how do they find time to keep shuffling the stock about? Not once in the past three Saturdays have certain things been where they were the previous week, despite signs hanging above the aisles to the contrary. Hunting the Yorkshire puddings in particular has become something of a weekly sport.

Why do supermarkets do this? The official line would be that the layout will make for a better customer experience. To which I say: Total codswallop.

There is the old theory that by forcing us to spend longer round the aisles, we will buy other things that catch our eye while looking for those elusive Yorkshires. But are people really so stupid? Have any of you thought: "Hm, I can't find the Yorkshire pudding to go with my Sunday roast, but that quinoa looks rather nice, and let's buy some ice cream while we're about it"? No, didn't think so.

What usually happens in my case is that after about 10 minutes' searching, I will concede defeat and storm off in a huff without buying it.

It has been a lean time for our big supermarkets, which have been feeling the pinch from discount rivals. So here's an idea. Just decide where the best location is for the Yorkshire pudding and the cooked meat. And leave it there. For the next 10 years at least.

It probably won't send profits through the roof, but they might just sell a bit more.

As they say, every little helps.

LEAKED emails reveal David Beckham was a bit miffed that he was only appointed an OBE, clearly believing he deserved a knighthood.

Frankly, I've never really bought into all this Goldenballs stuff. A prodigious talent, no doubt, but his former manager Sir Alex Ferguson frequently talked about how his showbiz lifestyle didn't sit well with the discipline of team sport.

Which is probably why, as we look back on his career, he is better remembered for his sarong, sandals, tattoos and pop-star wife than anything he achieved on the football field.

He might also like to consider what makes him different from his predecessor as England captain, Bobby Moore, who contented himself with an OBE.

Except that Bobby Moore's England team won something.

Where blame lies for 'broken' housing programme



EU president Jean-Claude Juncker – but how many people know about him?



New term 'nabbit' as Diane Abbott missed the crucial vote in the Commons



The late, great comedian Les Dawson proved just the job as a storyteller

Real problem is our soaring population

WHEN ministers talk of our "broken" housing programme, they need look no further than the House of Commons for someone to blame. Britain is a big and welcoming country. It could cope perfectly well with net migration of 100,000 newcomers per year. But when the UK population is allowed to grow at up to five times that rate, from 50 million to 70 million in a single lifetime, then everything, including surgeries, hospitals, schools, roads, railways and electricity, gas and water supplies, begins to creak and fall apart. There is absolutely no point in any Government brandishing a new White Paper and announcing a new housing policy unless it also has a viable population policy. We are still waiting.

GREAT coincidences of our time. Number of houses required to meet Britain's housing needs: 300,000 per year. Net migration into Britain: 300,000 per year.

THE Government says old folk occupying big houses will be "given incentives" to move into smaller properties. A reader asks: "Will the same criteria apply to the stately piles of England: Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Clarence House?" Any more questions like that, my lad, and you'll find yourself in a very large dwelling. The Tower.

A RECENT item on predictive text gave the example of Wton (short for Wolverhampton) being confused with Eton (the public school). In real life, the two could never be confused. One is a multicultural place populated by people with an impenetrable accent and bizarre dress-sense who are ridiculously proud of it. The other is Wolverhampton.

YOU may recall my ill-fated Campaign for the Restoration of Authentic Plumbing, a cause damned by its own initials. It may be time to

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



revive it. A report by Age UK alleges that modern push-button lavatory flushes can be impossible for some old folk to operate. A device that makes perfect sense to bright young designers in the bog-flush industry may be quite impossible if you are old, frail and have a touch of arthritis. As a general rule, if something has worked for 100 years, leave it alone. Pull chains and lever flushes have served this great nation very well. Let us see more of them.

A EURO-QUIZ. Who is the president of the European Commission? When was he elected by the people? What are his views on migration? What's his wife's name? If you are stumped for the answers, you are in the majority. We know all these things about Donald Trump, the new President of the United States, but are blissfully ignorant about the leaders of the European Union. It proves that, whatever The Remoaners tell us, most Britons have never really engaged with the EU. Even after 40 years of the European Project, we still look west towards Washington rather than east towards Brussels. The answers? The EU president is Jean-Claude Juncker. Elected by the people? You must be joking; he was appointed by MEPs. He says the migration crisis should be handled "with solidarity and the heart." His wife is Christiane. That's enough EU trivia, isn't it? Now, back to the interesting stuff at the White House . . .

AS the trial in Apple Tree Yard (BBC1) came to its climax, the foreman of the jury did not merely deliver the verdict but did so after a long pause, as seen with the Strictly Come Dancing voting,

to build up the tension. It was a silly moment to insert in a serious drama but it made me wonder. In this age, when people base their language and behaviour on what they see on television, has a real-life foreman in a real-life court announced: "We find the accused (interminable pause) not guilty"? I can think of some crusty old judges who would have sent the foreman straight to the cells for contempt for turning a serious trial into a drama.

NEW terms for out time: The nabbott. A nabbott is a sudden and mysterious disease which immediately disqualifies the victim from important business, such as voting in the Commons. The defining characteristic of the nabbott is that not everyone believes it is real. As in: "He's just throwing a nabbott."

HOWEVER, if Diane Abbott was genuinely struck down by a migraine just before the Brexit White Paper vote, she deserves our sympathy. Nobody ever gets just one migraine. They strike time after time. In my case it was once every six months. They came, throbbed for exactly six-and-a-half hours (so regular that you could set your clock by them) and then vanished, leaving me weak and wobbly but strangely cleansed. I suffered years of migraines; they suddenly stopped when I was put on blood pressure tablets.

THE late, great Les Dawson told the tale of a man who went to the Jobcentre and explained it had been a long time since he'd had a job. "So what was that job?" asked the clerk. "Zeppelin builder," replied the man. It's a reminder that some jobs don't survive the march of history. Carl Frey, a technology expert at Oxford University, has compiled a list of the £40,000-plus jobs most at risk from robots. Right at the top, I am delighted to report, are insurance underwriters.

TALKING POINT

Blow the whistle on treatment of referees

GRASSROOTS football is facing strikers of a different kind – the referees.

The men in black are being led in a protest campaign by young referee Ryan Hampson, an 18-year-old who has been punched, butted and spat on while officiating.

Some 800 officials agreed to join him on a nationwide strike on March 4-5 demanding more action from the FA to protect refs in grassroots football. The strike looks set to be put off after talks with his local FA in Manchester. But this action has been a long time coming and maybe a walkout is exactly what is needed.

Despite the token 'Respect the ref' banner, the man in the middle is easy prey for intimidation, abuse and occasionally violence. Every weekend I have to watch my teenage son set himself up as a target for know-it-all dads, bullying managers and yobbish players.

Most of the time those belowing about his decisions are in no position to accurately see the action or don't seem to have read a rule book since 1972 – but that doesn't stop them shouting out.

Managers seem to think if they badger a young ref for long enough he/she will change their minds. Or they will be too frightened to give a decision against them. In my experience, an obnoxious and/or vocal manager usually means obnoxious and/or vocal parents. Similarly, disciplined and sporting managers will have respectful parents – and players.

It is a case of 'monkey see, monkey do' with children. Just as they imitate the appalling behaviour of professional players, they also pick up the habits of parents and coaches. These aren't just pushy parents. They might argue they are being supportive but frankly they are embarrassing.

Someone should tell the parents this a group of children playing for fun – though not if you have angry parents pitchside!

Speaking as a referee's mother, if you think it is acceptable to abuse a young lad who has got out of bed on a cold weekend to earn a bit of pocket money then you need to take a long hard look at yourself.

My son has been refereeing since he was 14. Fresh-faced and new to the game, it was tough and many of his friends simply quit. He has grown in confidence and now stands at 6ft tall so tends to see less intimidation but I worry how it will be when he starts taking charge of adult games.

No ref always makes the right call, particularly when your linesman is a well-meaning parent, but that is part of the game. Teams must put up and shut up unless they want to pay for professional linesmen. If these youngsters did not give up their weekends there would be no games. It may just take a strike to remind people.

DIANE DAVIES

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READING the E&S every night to see what's happening, and unfortunately, it is mainly full of crimes, murders, robberies, fires, accidents, assaults, both at home and abroad. Then at the back we have bereavements. Remember the days when you printed 'Joke of the Day' which I am sure gave people a smile.

Could we please have it back, just to read something for a change to cheer us up! If only for a couple of minutes. Silly jokes are always the best to make people smile. I have below a couple of silly jokes:

English, Scottish and Irishman training to parachute jump. They get to 10,000 feet and are told to jump out, count to three, pull

the rip cord and shout 'Geronimo!' Englishman jumps, shouts 1-2-3, pulls the rip cord, shouts 'Geronimo!' and lands. Scottishman does the same, 1-2-3, pulls rip cord, shouts 'Geronimo!' and lands. The Irishman jumps out. The instructor looks out to see him hanging onto the wing. Irishman says: "What was the name of that bloody Indian?"

A couple more –
Optician's: "Are my eyes bad?"
"What sort of dog do you want?"
Chinese take-away: "Do you deliver?"
"No, only beef, pork and chicken."
Silly ones are the best!

MR J W DAVIS
Walsall

Long-term problems

WALSALL Council's proposed council tax increase is an inflation-busting one.

Councillor Coughlan needs to put a referendum in place – anything above 1.99 per cent needs a referendum.

Also, the council wants to increase social care by two per cent – why, when they have shut one care home and possibly another one to close.

Walsall Council has always been cash-strapped, so all councillors have been doing something wrong for all these years.

BRIAN PARKER
Pelsall
Walsall

Disgruntled made choice

BREXIT and Donald Trump were supported by the disgruntled not by the thoughtful. Only the disgruntled would think that distancing ourselves from a huge home market is sensible. Only the disgruntled would think that alienating the Muslims, China and Iran would make the world a safer place.

Being disgruntled can be a catalyst for change but it is not a foundation for long term success.

ROGER WATTS
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Are we turning our backs on trade?

HOW can anyone say that a vote of 52 per cent to 48 per cent is a definitive decision when most of the 52 per cent believed that huge amounts of money will be available to spend on the NHS?

We are talking about turning our back on a huge home market which we wrongly think can be replaced by trading with far-away countries.

Dog mess and rubbish

THANK you for publishing my letter concerning the dog fouling in my area.

To add insult to injury, the contents of a house clearance were fly-tipped on a disused car park in Reedswood overnight.

It would be nice if the perpetrators were to be traced so that they could receive the full force of the law but I won't hold my breath!!

N WALTON
Bentley Lane, Walsall



Speeding snub fears

WITH reference to Andy Brown's letter regarding West Bromwich Road and speeding traffic, I am so sorry to report that any attempt to resolve the problem will be a negative one, despite assurances.

Residents of Somerfield Road, through their Leamore Community Group, campaigned for cameras and watchman signs to be installed, each resident signed a petition which was presented to council by Councillor Chris Jones, which was forwarded to the council's executive director, Simon Neilson and all of our requests were turned down.

The safety concerns were totally ignored, so, Mr Brown, a word of advice, do not rely on assurances.

MRS G DUNN
Leamore

Hair-raising afternoon

WENT out Saturday afternoon, spent about £30, saw some lovely hairstyles, buns, pony tails, tram lines and that was only the men.

Saw the men I went to see spitting very often, spitting water out of bottles. Good example to kids watching. Children submitted to foul language for long periods.

Men being sick, due to booze, going everywhere. Swearing and shouting abuse at one and all. Blood, sweat and tears thrown in for good measure. Saw a lot of 'play acting' suitable for a pantomime. Suppose some arrests were made. I only went to a football match.

MR J W DAVIS
Walsall

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Pupils' artistry is in frame at the HQ

SOME of Walsall's budding future stars of the art world have had their work selected for display in West Midlands Police's newly refurbished HQ.

Pupils from across the West Midlands were invited to submit pieces of art around the theme 'what the word police means to you' at the new Lloyd House base in Birmingham.

As a result, the force received hundreds of entries and chose a selection to go on display in the reception area.

Pupils from Brownhills School in Deakin Avenue, have had their work selected and were invited to visit the headquarters to see it on display and meet Chief Constable Dave Thompson.

They also had a look around the new museum timeline display in Lloyd House reception and had the opportunity to sit in a traffic car and sound the sirens. Mr Thompson said: "We were delighted with the positive response we've had to this project and it was lovely to meet the children behind the fantastic artwork we have on display."

"They should be very proud of the work they've produced and it's fascinating to see what the word 'police' does actually mean to them."

Walsall police station's former base in Green Lane closed its doors for the final time in October last year after 50 years as a town centre base for officers.

The closure, which formed part of plans from West Midlands Police to save more than £3 million a year, has seen staff move bases into the town's civic centre.



With their artworks at the new Lloyd House, from left, Leo Waterfield, Chief

2,000-patient medical centre told to improve

A MEDICAL centre which caters for nearly 2,000 people has been told to improve, after not following up on missed appointments with young patients.

New Road Medical Centre, based at the Park View Centre on Chester Road North, Brownhills, has been rated as 'requires improvement' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

A recent inspection claimed that there were flaws in the centre's follow-up system for missed appointments.

Concerns were also raised as to the absence of some emergency medicines.

The centre was given a 'requires improvement' rating in terms of its safety, effectiveness and leadership, but its care and responsiveness were rated as good. Inspectors also noted that a lack of planning to improve certain areas was not in place.

Around 1,800 people are registered and

cared for at the practice. Bosses at the centre have been told they need to take action in three particular areas where they are not meeting legal requirements.

The CQC report said: "Although the practice had defined and embedded systems, processes and practices to keep patients safe and safeguarded from abuse, the systems and processes to address these risks were not implemented well enough to ensure patients were kept safe. For example, staff were not appropriately following up patients who missed hospital appointments. The registered person also did not establish or operate effective audit systems or processes to improve the quality or effectively use information gathered."

Another concern related to safety assessments, 'the practice did not gain assurance from the property owners that fire and legionella safety assessments had been carried out'.

The centre did not want to comment.

Ellie in the running for mag award

PARALYMPIC hero Ellie Simmonds is in the running for a sports woman of the year award for Glamour magazine.

The golden girl, from Aldridge, has been put forward alongside 10 other sporting stars for the prize.

Ellie, aged 22, tweeted: "Wow, truly honoured and to be up with so many incredible women @GlamourMagUK."

Ellie became Britain's youngest ever athlete in 2008 when she competed in the Paralympics in Beijing.

She won the 100m and 400m freestyle events aged just 13. Four years later in 2012 she won the 400m freestyle race - lowering the world record by four seconds. Ellie then took gold in the 200m individual medley, breaking a world record.

Last year at Rio, she defended her 200m individual medley, breaking a new world record, and clinched a bronze medal in the 400m freestyle. In total she has won five Paralympic golds.

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On the run to help boost cancer fund



Stewart Nash, who is to run the Great Birmingham Run in April, to raise money for The Delays singer Greg Gilbert

A LORRY driver is gearing up to run more than six miles to raise money for the singer of his favourite band who has cancer. Stewart Nash, aged 43, of Wednesfield, is 6ft 1in and weighs 17 stone. He has never been into running before, but has now started jogging three times a week as he prepares for the Great Birmingham 10k in April.

He is doing it in aid of Delays' singer and guitarist Greg Gilbert who has been diagnosed with stage four bowel cancer which has spread to his lungs.

The indie band's front man is hoping to raise £250,000 for specialist treatment. More than £150,000 has

already been raised and there are a raft of benefit concerts planned for the 39-year-old father of two.

Stewart, who is a self-confessed super-fan, has been following the band since 2000. "I first heard them on Jo Whiley's show on Radio 1 and I thought I quite like these and it's gone on from there," he said.

"I've been a huge fan ever since, but I've only seen them once at the Slade a few years ago. They were brilliant. Most bands try and get off after their gigs, but they went to the bar area after and I met all the band," said Stewart.

"It was great that they took the time to speak to fans and it made my experience with them even more personal."

After deciding to run, Stewart got in touch with the singer's fiancée, Stacey Heale, to let her know about his fund-raising efforts and she said she is very grateful for his generosity. The kind-hearted lorry driver is looking to raise an initial £500, but he's quite confident of surpassing that target.

"I've raised £350 in three weeks. I reckon by the time the run comes around we'd have smashed a grand," he said. To support his run, go to go-fundme.com/run4greggilbert

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Grey-t new drink
with bit of a kink



The 50 Shades-themed cocktail which has been added to the drinks menu at TGI Friday's in Walsall

A COCKTAIL bar in Walsall is paying homage to the kinky Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy by launching a specially named drink.

Mr Grey's Screaming Orgasm as been added to the menu at TGI Friday's in Walsall.

The limited-time offer cocktail will be available at the venue up until February 17, and like the film itself, is indulgent, rich and guaranteed to get you in the mood for naughtiness.

The Fridays-original creation features Baileys, Amaretto, Grey Goose vodka, Bløvad black vodka, and white Cacao – a chocolate-infused liqueur made from the cacao seed which has aphrodisiacal qualities.

The chemicals in the bean are said to stimulate the senses and heighten feelings of joy and pleasure.

The black vodka creates the cascading, layered effect, which moves from a dark to a pale grey throughout the drink.

Terry McDowell, TGI Friday's head of drink development said: "With a number of our restaurants located near cinemas, we know that many of our guests are huge film fans, so we decided to use Fifty Shades Darker as the inspiration for our latest cocktail. And no, there is no virgin option available when it comes to this cocktail."

"We've designed the drink to reflect the film – not just in its colour, but with luxurious and aphrodisiacal ingredients. So, when you come into Fridays over the next week, Mr Grey will definitely see you now."

Trust hit by £50k costs for foreign mum-to-be

A PREGNANT woman from abroad who had a premature birth at Walsall Manor Hospital owes the trust more than £50,000.

She is one of hundreds of overseas visitors who are not entitled to free healthcare in this country, but then require treatment, result in an outstanding bill of more than £1.3 million across the Black Country.

A total of £1,329,202.59 is owed to hospital trusts in Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall.

West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge, who is also a councillor in Dudley, called for a stop to be put on health tourism. He said: "This is a prime example of it being the NHS, national health service, not the IHS, the international health service."

"It is great when you have paid in to it and need looking after but when it comes to health tourism and the costs are never recouped it is very expensive."

"These figures are really really concerning, especially when hospitals tell us they are in crisis. I have spoken to a lot of hospital staff who say the very basic things, such as trolleys, are not being upgraded and it is no surprise to hear why when money like this is being leached from the system."

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross Hospital and Cannock Chase Hospital, is owed £621,028.59.

The Trust said it had 'come to an arrangement'

By Jack Averty

with individuals meaning at least £175,000 was to be recovered. £285,198.81 has been referred to a debt recovery agency with the rest yet to be allocated either to the agency or a payment plan. A spokesman said: "We always strive to recover monies that are owed to the Trust."

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell General Hospital and Rowley Regis Hospital, is owed £588,000.

The Trust, which also runs City Hospital in Birmingham, said: "We follow thorough processes to identify and charge people who are required to pay for NHS treatment. This financial year we have increased six-fold the amount of money charged to overseas visitors, compared to the same period last year."

The trust which runs Russells Hall Hospital, the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, is owed £69,945 which it says it is 'vigorously pursuing'.

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I fought in Iraq so guns don't scare me – trader

"WHEN I was younger Saddam Hussein bombed the fields where I was playing football with my friends – a gun doesn't scare me anymore."

A brave ex-soldier turned shopkeeper who fought off an armed robber with a can of animal repellent spray has spoken of how it would have been against his morals and beliefs to have cowed to intimidation.

Shikha Mahsum, the owner of Kobani Off Licence on West Bromwich Street, Palfrey, called on his training when confronted by a hooded gunman, grabbing a can of dog repellent spray from underneath the till and going on the offensive, forcing the robber to flee. The shop is named after the six-month siege of Kobani in northern Iraq, when Kurdish fighters backed by air strikes defeated a large Islamic State force. For the 39-year-old, the incident was nothing compared to his days as a Peshmerga soldier.

Instincts

Speaking about his time in the forces, he said: "In 1996, everyone in Kurdistan became Peshmerga, we had to fight Saddam. I was injured, my brothers were shot but I am still here."

Mr Mahsum moved to England in 2002 and has lived a quiet life running the off-licence since last year.

He still bears scars on his chest and back from his time as a soldier, but he also has his battle instincts intact.

He utilised these when the drama broke out just five minutes before the shop was set to close on the evening of January 9. He said: "I heard his gun click but I don't if it was just empty, or only fired blanks. I chased him outside and saw that the other two men with him had two of my staff held hostage. They had a car waiting outside and were ready to go."

Mr Mahsum said he would have 'rather died' than give in at the point where the gun was brandished in his



Former Kurdish special forces peshmerga Shikha Mahsum, outside the shop



Shikha, left, seen with his brothers



The CCTV captures the shop raid

face. He said: "Where I am from, you are not a man if you don't stand up for yourself and defend yourself."

"I don't care if he had a gun, I was not going to give up and give him the money, I would rather have died. When I was younger, Saddam Hussein bombed the fields where I was playing football with my friends – a gun doesn't scare me anymore. They needed a gun and were happy to risk everything for a bit of cash, to me they are not real men."

"The man who came into the shop ran like a child, he doesn't scare me."

"We don't get a lot of trouble in the shop but I know that I have to look out for myself at all times. The shop owner has been commended for his bravery by police and councillors, but warnings have been issued for others not to copy his heroic actions if confronted with an armed robber."

Mr Mahsum said: "The policeman who came down after I called said to me that I should have called them."

"I told him that by the time he arrived it would have been too late. He said I was a hero but a silly hero, but I know that I would do it again."

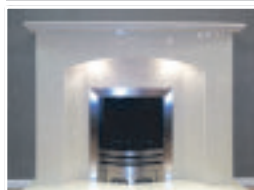
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A COMMUNITY group which has proudly flown the flag for its town is now looking to take a step into the world of ale.

Willenhall Ay We, the group which campaigned for the town to have its own flag back in 2014, is set to team up with Broughs Brewery to launch an ale to put the town on the map once again.

The group is asking for help from the community to come up with a name and a label design in keeping with the town's tradition ahead of the ale's unveiling at Willenhall Beer Festival 2017. Kalie Plant, a member of the group, said: "I would advise people to begin by looking at a number of sources for inspiration to find something that is important and unique."

Individuals and groups are invited to create proposals in line with the competition, with the deadline for submissions set at March 12. A panel of judges, including representatives from Willenhallaywe.co.uk, 442 Bar and Grill and representatives in the ale trade, will then choose a final set of five designs to be put to a public vote.

The vote will be held via Willenhall Ay We's social media page beginning March 20 and finishing on April 3. To enter send your design ideas by post to: C/o Crazy-Wicks, Market Place, Willenhall, WV13 2AA, or 442 Bar & Grill, Noose Lane, Willenhall, WV13 3BB. Alternatively, email designs in to info@willenhallaywe.co.uk. Entries may be constructed in any medium and submitted in A4 size.

Takeaway is fined £3.5k on breaches of hygiene

A TAKEAWAY with grease-stained walls and equipment has been fined more than £3,500 for breaching food safety regulations.

M-unch on Walsall Road, Great Wyrley, which provides hot and cold takeaway sandwiches, was warned several times by inspectors that it faced prosecution if the cleanliness of its cooking areas and utensils failed to improve.

After ignoring these warnings the owners of the business have been taken to court where they admitted three breaches of food safety and hygiene regulations.

In total including costs, they have had to pay £3,658.72. The investigation began when food safety officers from South Staffordshire Council visited M-unch in November 2015.

Findings included heavily greased stained walls, ceiling and floor areas and cooking equipment which was also encrusted with grease.

The food safety inspectors also found other equipment which was poorly maintained, in the form of dirty chopping boards, unclean fridges, and a lack of suitable ventilation to remove grease and cooking fumes from the premises.

Repeated warnings were given to the food business to improve the standard of cleaning and hygiene practices and three hygiene

By Judith Hawkins

improvement notices were served on the owners to secure improvements within a specified time period.

After the business owners failed to meet the deadlines for making substantial improvements, they appeared before and pleaded guilty to the charges at North Staffordshire Justice Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme. The hearing took place on January 30.

Councillor Roger Lees, deputy leader and cabinet member for public health protection services, said: "South Staffordshire Council is committed to ensuring consumers are not put at risk and we will not hesitate to take formal action through the courts and prosecute businesses that do not comply with food hygiene legislation."

"Unhygienic conditions and poor practices will not be tolerated."

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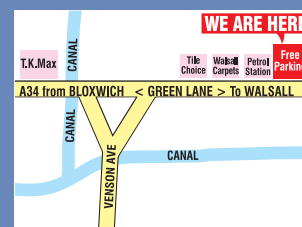
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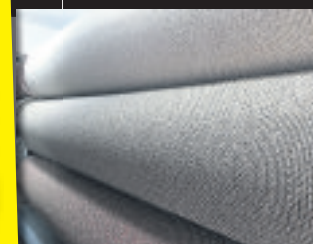


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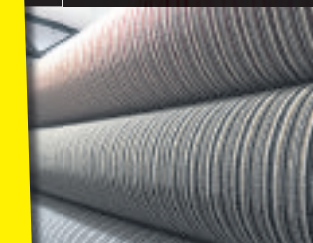


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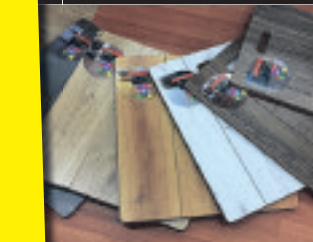
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Mother of boy with rare disease praises hospice

A WEDNESBURY mother has praised a hospice for the support and care provided for her son who has a life-threatening condition.

Seven-year-old Ritchie Lea-Edmond was just 16 months old when his family received the devastating news that he had spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) type 2, and there was a chance he wouldn't reach his second birthday.

The family were introduced to Acorns Hospice, based in Walsall, when Ritchie was two years old, and say that it's now like his second home.

Mother Donna Harris, aged 36, who lives with partner Matt, said: "Ritchie got up one day and it was like he'd had a stroke. It was like one side of his body had just 'gone'. We rushed him to hospital and after having tests, the doctors told us the news."

Spinal muscular atrophy is a rare genetic neuromuscular disease, which results in loss of mobility and motor function.

Prognosis

SMA is the leading genetic cause of death of infants and toddlers, with around 95 per cent of the most severely diagnosed cases resulting in death by the age of 18 months.

Despite his initial prognosis, Ritchie is now a determined seven-year-old and, as his mum describes, a 'real character'.

Ms Harris continued: "Despite all his many challenges, it doesn't stop him doing what he wants."

"He can do very little for himself but he's just adapted. Acorns is one of the places that helps him to do the things he loves."

"His eyes light up when he knows we're going to Acorns. It gives him confidence and he can go to socialise



Ritchie Lea-Edmond with his mother Donna and her partner Matt

and spend time with children that are like him, children that have different abilities.

"He gets to go and make a mess and have fun. Ritchie loves to help others as much as he can. He's got a heart of gold."

"He watches his iPad, he loves his books, plays on the Xbox and he gets on well with the staff. He's got every single one of them wrapped around his little finger."

As well as providing Ritchie with a safe and fun 'home-from-home',

Acorns has supported his family in other ways too.

She added: "Acorns has been an absolute godsend to us. It just gives us a little bit of a break and we know Ritchie's in good hands."

"It's not like I can call a babysitter and say 'can you have him'? The staff know him, they know the condition and they know what they're doing when it comes to children with his needs. Even if we just go and walk round the park for 10 minutes. It's our little peace and quiet."

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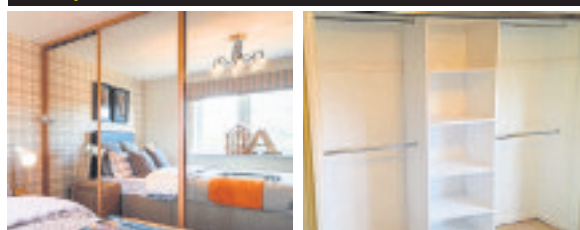
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THIS spectacular black swan was captured making a rare visit to a beauty spot near Walsall. The photograph was taken on Chasewater south shore by retired university lecturer Keith Whitehouse. Mr Whitehouse, aged 71, of Brownhills, said: "It's quite a rare visitor and was just off the main car park. It's not an endemic bird to Great Britain so it's either an escapee from Australia or has been deliberately released here."

Nursery head's delight at outstanding rating

THE headteacher of a Bloxwich nursery said an outstanding rating by inspectors came as no surprise because of the hard work staff put in.

Millfields Nursery School, in Lichfield Road, was awarded the top grade by Ofsted when they undertook a short inspection in December. It meant it maintained the rating it was given in October 2013.

Headteacher Lynne Emery said: "The reason we've done so well is down to the commitment of the staff. They constantly strive for the best for the children in evaluating their needs."

Babies

On whether she expected the school to obtain another outstanding report, she said: "We would always think that. However, you never know until the day."

Mrs Emery added: "The report reflects how highly parents speak of the school, many of which have had children at the setting since they were babies and reflects the hard work of all staff within the school."



Madeline Morgan-Jones, aged three

"At Millfields we are extremely proud of the work that goes on with all of our children and are very lucky to work with such delightful children and supportive families."

Ofsted found Mrs Emery and senior staff had a full knowledge of what the nursery school does well and what needs to improve.

In a letter to the school, inspector Usha Devi wrote: "The leadership team has main-

tained the outstanding quality of education in the school since the last inspection.

"The parents I spoke with during the inspection were overwhelmingly positive about the work of the school. They particularly commended the staff for helping their children to become self-assured individuals. 'It is like being at home' and 'this nursery is my first and only choice' were commonly-held views among the parents."

"At the time of the last inspection, senior leaders were asked to increase children's independence by giving them the chance to talk about the activities they have completed and would like to do next. The actions you and leaders have taken in response to this have proved to be highly successful."

"Children speak enthusiastically about their learning and their work, and they enjoy talking about the choice of activities on offer. Adults sensitively support the children with limited vocabulary to express their opinions. These children are also encouraged to use simple sentences to verbalise their thoughts."

The nursery school moved from its former site in Stoney Lane in September 2003 and is now based on the same base as Walsall Academy.



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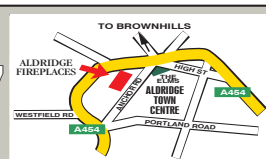


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More than £250,000 has been invested in building Star Feast



Patrick Downham, left, and Steve Money of Star Feast Foods



Star Feast offers a range of seafood, poultry and dried goods

One of the UK's leading seafood suppliers has launched a new business to target restaurants and the general public.

Star Agro Marine Foods, which provides more than £9m of sustainable shrimp and related products to supermarkets across the country, has invested over £250,000 into rolling-out Star Feast in the Midlands.

The new company will immediately create five jobs and will be responsible for the wholesale, restaurant, trade counter and home delivery aspect of the original business, with bosses predicting first year sales could top £3m.

A new Tuk Tuk – sourced all the way from

Pune in India – has arrived in the Black Country and will be used to market the new offer, which will include a large range of seafood, poultry and dried goods.

"We have had a fantastic year with the major retailers, with more than £5m of new orders secured over the last twelve months," explained Steve Money, Managing Director.

"However, we don't like to stand still and there's only so much Star Agro shrimp we can supply. We need an alternative approach on the wholesale and home delivery front, which is why we've branched out with the launch of Star Feast."

He continued: "This will focus on growing the trade counter, supplying into more restaurants and marketing our home delivery to the general public. The latter means people can

have fresh seafood and poultry products direct to their door, simply by picking up the phone or placing the order via social media.

"Better still, on certain occasions your delivery will be completed using our authentic Tuk Tuk, which is causing a major stir among fellow motorists in the Black Country."

Wolverhampton-based Star Feast will originally focus on the West Midlands and in developing its full range of products ahead of exhibiting at a number of trade shows later this year.

It is also exploring opportunities to broaden its reach in the South West and London, with plans in place to create a network of supply bases over the coming months. If these deals are completed, more than 8 people will be employed and the range could be as diverse as 75 different products.

This includes cod, king prawns, mussels, pangasius, salmon, squid and tilapia – we've even got fresh water whole fish available. (Pull out quote)

Steve concluded: "The new business is all about understanding what our different customer bases want and a dedicated wholesale offer – with more choice – was at the top of their list."

"We've got lots of exciting plans to secure market share, including the Tuk Tuk marketing campaign and the future launch of a mobile app that will make ordering extremely easy. Minimum orders are just 1kg so it's a great way to have fresh seafood delivered right to your door."

For further information, please visit www.staragromarine.co.uk or contact 01902 722963

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Star Feast's authentic Tuk Tuk will be travelling all over the Black Country over the next few weeks and the company is giving customers the chance to enjoy £10 off their first order when they spend £20 or more.

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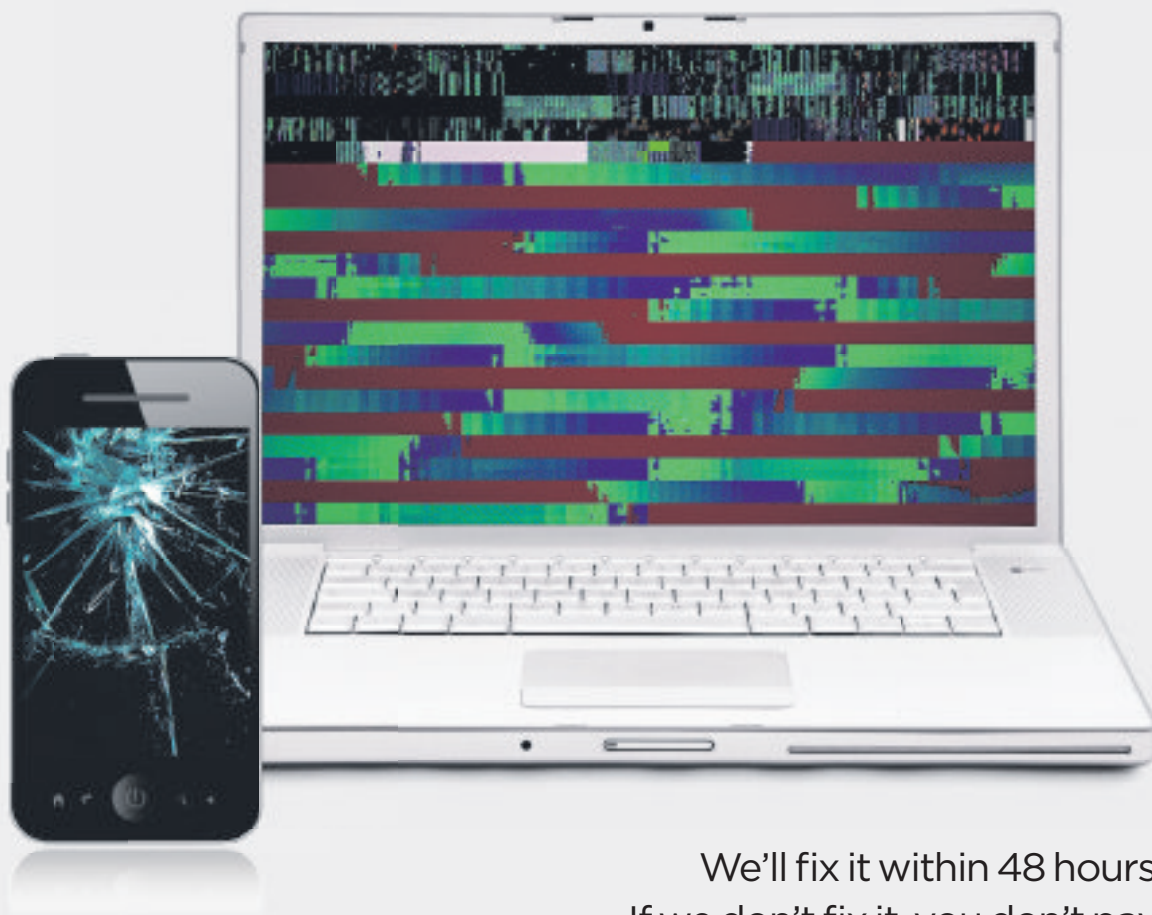
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Sat 15 Apr	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
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Region's traveller camps are costing us £1 million

TRAVELLER camps in the West Midlands are costing taxpayers more than £1 million a year to move on caravans and clear up rubbish, an inquiry heard, with Walsall suffering the largest number in the region.

The huge bill was unveiled by council staff as they revealed their officers were regularly being threatened, followed home, and intimidated by travellers at unlawful encampments on public and private property. And police said there was a rise in the number of businessmen being 'extorted' by travellers who were occupying private land and demanding payment to leave.

The hearing held by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson in Birmingham was told the number of unauthorised camps had 'spiralled' with nearly 400 in 2015 compared to 189 in 2011.

And the size of the camps was growing, with up to 60 vehicles and caravans and 200 travellers on a single camp in some cases.

Walsall had the largest number of unauthorised camps in the entire West Midlands with 117 in 2016 up from 85 in 2015 and 62 in 2015.

Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick said there had been a 'marked change' in the number of camps and their size. She said: "We get calls of camps with more than 40 caravans. We are also getting more calls of anti-social behaviour, noise, dangerous driving, criminal damage, and significant fly-tipping."

She told the inquiry the council spent £100,000 dealing with the unlawful camps in 2016 and £70,000 in 2015.

Mr Jamieson has produced an action plan to tackle the problems discussed. He said: "At the moment, we are not doing the right job in the right way for everybody - this summit helped us see that and move forward on a more productive path."

Men face jail for £500,000 tobacco racket

TWO men behind a near £500,000 cigarette and tobacco racket face the prospect of being jailed. The haul was uncovered during three raids on a Walsall shop and neighbouring home, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Trading standards officers found over 100,000 illicit and counterfeit cigarettes during swoops on the Polonia Polski Sklep store in Caldmore Green, that took place in 2013, 2014 and 2016, explained Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting on behalf of Walsall Council, some of the cigarettes were non-existent brands.

It's a sure-fire bet for raising charity cash



From left – casino sales manager, Dawn Mackay, Carol Wise Venables, Walsall mayor Kath Phillips, Cate Rodden

GROSVENOR Casino Walsall, located on Bentley Mill Way, recently hosted the Mayor's Charity Fun Gaming Night in aid of St Giles Walsall Hospice and Acorns Children's Hospice.

The evening was a complete success with an outstanding total of £3,500 raised from the event, which will go towards the two charities.

Cate Rodden, general manager of Grosvenor Casino Walsall said: "It was great to host the Mayor's Charity Fun Gaming Night at Grosvenor Casino Walsall.

"It really was fantastic evening including the perfect mix of fun, gaming and live entertainment, giving the local community the perfect opportunity to get together for a great night, while also raising money for a great cause.

"We're really pleased to say that in total, the evening raised an impressive £3,500 from the night for two such worthwhile charities.

"We really hope the funds raised will help both St Giles Walsall Hospice and Acorns Childrens Hospice with their charitable endeavours."

Such brands were probably produced in China, then there were also copies of legitimate makes with fake trademark packaging and a large number of genuine packets, which had been smuggled into the country without any duty being paid on them. These all sold for as little as £3-a-pack, up to £7 less than the price of legitimate cigarettes.

Some of the haul was found stashed in hollowed out walls, microwaves and fridges, the court was told. During a raid in May 2014, inspectors searched an adjoining property, leased to Mr Mohamed Hsin, and found 65,000 JPS cigarettes among various other illicit tobacco products, revealed Mr Jackson.

Controlled

Both 44-year-old Hsin, who lived above the shop, and Hassan Ali Reza, aged 29, of Friday Acre, Lichfield, were linked with the store, the court heard. The shop was allegedly controlled by Hsin but he claimed to have sold the lease to Reza.

Hsin denied involvement in the conspiracy, alleging he was out of the country during the first two raids. Reza pleaded guilty to conspiracy to sell the counterfeit tobacco products while Hsin denied the charge but was unanimously found guilty after a trial yesterday.

The two men have been remanded on conditional bail for reports until April 3 when they will be sentenced.

Circular walk around village

THE Walsall Group of the Ramblers will be heading to Chaddesley Corbett for a 7.5 mile circular walk on Sunday February 19 – an easy walk on field paths and lanes.

Non-members are always welcome and can obtain more information from the walk leaders on 01922 621148 or 07587 741 894.

More information about the Walsall Group is available on website www.wramblers.org.uk/walsall

This is a shoo-in to enchant ballet fans

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Red Shoes

Birmingham Hippodrome

The story of The Red Shoes with its passion, romance and dance-obsessed heroine, is a perfect match for Matthew Bourne, the choreographer who has done more than any other to energise the British dance scene over the past 28 years.

His modern ballets, such as the male-dominated Swan Lake, The Car Man, Edward Scissorhands and revamps of Sleeping Beauty and the Nutcracker have been genuinely popular art bringing large audiences back to watch dance.

His new production arrived in Birmingham this week after much acclaim in London. The praise is deserved thanks to a ravishing show that captures the Technicolor glow of Powell and Pressburger's classic 1945 movie, whilst also having the rakish hallmarks of a New Adventures production.

Obsession

The story was derived from a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale about a girl whose obsession with a pair of red shoes sees her condemned to dance in them until she dies.

But like the movie that starred Moira Shearer and Anton Walbrook, it has been updated to the mid-20th century, when a talented and beautiful young English dancer is torn between a tormented young composer and an aloof Russian ballet impresario.

It uses a clever technique of placing a proscenium arch on stage, so it pivots to give us front and backstage views of dancers, in performance in snippets of famous ballets and sometimes going mechanically through their paces whilst puffing on a cigarette.

Paule Constable's dramatic lighting gives a filmic quality whilst Lez Brotherston's 1940s costumes are a fashion parade of retro gorgeousness.

Bourne's routines have his compelling blend of elegance and carnality.



The lovers dance in a scene from Matthew Bourne's The Red Shoes

Highlights include a starlit stroll on a Monte Carlo promenade that turns into a passionate assignation between our doe-eyed heroine Victoria Shaw and her lover Julian Craster, as portrayed by stunning Australian dancer Ashley Shaw and the powerful Chris Trenfield.

There are also delightful beach ball larks on a Cote D'Azur beach and a comic music hall sand dance in the style of lanky pharaohs of fun Wilson and Keppel.

The ballet within the ballet, The Red Shoes, which closes the first act, is

powerfully presented in angular monochrome 1920s expressionist style. It also gives the audience the odd sensation of both being an actual audience and playing an audience in the dance psycho-drama.

The action moves along at a fast pace, particularly the brief second act, propelled by the atmospheric music of movie composer Bernard Herrmann (minus his famous Psycho slasher motif) with our heroine hurtling towards her date with tragedy... and a standing ovation from the Hippodrome audience.

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Wilson Lovatt staff enjoying a camel ride



William's brother Harry in uniform



Sitting atop a pyramid, enjoying the work of another contractor?



William in his linen suit in Egypt

Trooping to Egypt for contract on barracks

ONE of Wolverhampton's best known construction companies, was Wilson Lovatt & Sons.

In 1911 they secured a huge contract to build new army barracks at Abbassia in Egypt.

They were to replace old barracks about which questions had been asked in Parliament. They were lit by oil lamps and the troops found it impossible to read at night.

Outskirts

The barracks were at Heliopolis on the outskirts of Cairo, near the airfield used by both the RAF and Imperial Airways.

In charge of the contract was William Alexander Poulson of Rayleigh Road, Wolverhampton.

His father had operated a building

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

firm, J Poulson and Son of St Mark's Road, but William, who had been born in 1880, moved to Wilson Lovatt, initially as a foreman bricklayer.

He went out to Egypt on the P & O steamship SS Maloja. While in Egypt he took in all the sights, and took many photographs on his early glass-plate camera.

He returned before the War, contract complete, and his son Geoffrey was born in 1914.

He continued to work for Wilson Lovatt until his retirement.

His brother Harry was called up in the First World War, and was due to marry Clara Jones on his demob, but she died in the influenza epidemic of 1918-9.



Inspecting the works at Abbassia



William Poulson in later life



Mrs Poulson at home in Rayleigh Road

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See Page 25



Royal decree

See Page 25



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Tomorrow, 7pm
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Expect a full house for the return of the power pop trio touting new album *Night Driver* and lots of favourites from the Year 3000.
See [academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham](http://www.academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham)

LeAnn Rhymes



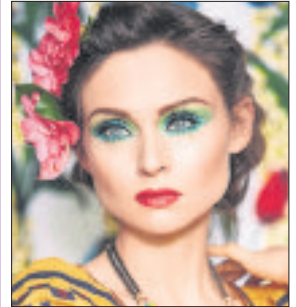
Tonight, 7pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
The US singer who crossed over from country to the pop scene to have such hits as *Can't Fight The Moonlight* and *How Do I Live* is back with a new album, *Remnants*.
See www.thsh.co.uk

Juan Diego Florez



Tuesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
The acclaimed tenor from Peru will be accompanied by pianist Vincenza Scalerà for a recital including arias by Verdi, Rossini, Puccini and Mozart that will delight classical fans.
See www.thsh.co.uk

Sophie Ellis-Bextor



Tonight, 7pm
O2 Institute 2, Birmingham
It will be *Murder On The Dancefloor* at the Digbeth venue when the pop favourite performs her hits as well as songs from new album *Familia*.
See www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

The Red Lemons
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Jam House,
Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Andy Fairweather Low & The Low Riders
Tonight, £20
Artrix,
Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 87158

UB40 – Ultimate 40
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

Renowned Gypsy Jazz and Blues Guitarist Remi Harris
Tomorrow,
West Malvern Social Club,
Malvern, WR14 4AY.
Call 01684 572475

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Kent DuChaine
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The Jam House,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Bryan Corbett Quartet
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The Jam House,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
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Ian Parker & his band
Thu, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

ROCK & METAL

Bon Giovi – The International Tribute to Bon Jovi
Tonight, £12 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Paul Carrack
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Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

T.Rextasy
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Regent Theatre,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
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The Machine Rages On
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The RoadHouse Birmingham,
King Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Dreams Of Fleetwood Mac
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The River Rooms,
Stourbridge,
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Spring King + The Big Moon + Get Inuit
Tonight, £10
The Sugarmill,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

The Counterfeit Stones
Tomorrow, £13 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Bon Jovi Experience
Tomorrow,
Oakengates Theatre,
Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Kings Of Leon
Mon,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Roadhouse Presents: Metal Showcase
Thu, £4
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
King Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

FOLK & COUNTRY

CASH (A tribute to the Man in Black with Full Band)
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

One Night In Nashville
Tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Traditional Irish Music
Mon,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Pete Kent
Wed, £7 - £9
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Folk & Roots Club
Thu, Free
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
King Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

POP

Let's Hang On (celebrating Frankie Valli)
Tomorrow, £20 - £22
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Sunday Classics
Sun,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Black Magic – The Little Mix Show
Mon,
Brierley Hill Civic Hall, DY5 3DH.
Call 01384 812730

CLASSICAL

Orchestra of the Swan: Magical Mozart
Tonight, £15.50
Number 8 Community Arts
Centre, Pershore, WR10 1BG.
Call 01386 555028

Orchestra of The Swan: Guy Johnston plays Haydn
Thu, £20.16 - £30.24
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

COMEDY

Josie Long: Something Better
Tonight,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 359 9444

Standup comedy – Sally-Anne Hayward, James Cook, Johnny Candon
Tonight - tomorrow, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B1 2HG.
Call 08700 111 960

Barnstormers Comedy February 2017
Tomorrow, £14
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Roy Chubby Brown
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Standup comedy – Thanyia Moore, James Cook, Johnny Candon, Jeff Innocent
Tomorrow - Sun, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B1 2HG.
Call 08700 111 960

Justin Moorhouse
Sun, £15
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

THEATRE

Thoroughly Modern Millie
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Anita And Me
Tonight - tomorrow,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 429212

Birmingham Royal Ballet – First Steps, a child's first Cinderella
Tonight, £10
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - Thu,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Cinderella
Tonight - Thu, £16
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Don't Go Into The Cellar! Presents Penny Dreadful! Or, Mrs Lovett's Revenge!
Tomorrow, Thu,
Newman Brothers at the Coffin
Works, Birmingham, B3 1JP.
Call 0121 2334790

A Judgement in Stone
Mon - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Bedtime Stories
Tue - Thu,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Thriller Live
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 429212

Some Guys Have All the Luck – The Rod Stewart Story
Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

MISC. EVENTS

The Edgbaston Stadium Antiques, Collectors & Vintage Fair
Sun, £2 - £3
Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham,
B5 7QU. Call 0844 635 1902

Cirque Berserk!
Mon - Thu,
Birmingham REP Theatre,
Library of Birmingham,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

MAC Explorers: Dance
Wed,
MAC Theatre, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

ARTS & CULTURE

Identification Day with Henry Sandon MBE
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Museum of Royal Worcester,
WR1 2ND.
See www.museumofroyalworcester.org

Anatomy Lab LIVE | BIRMINGHAM
Tomorrow - Sun,
Cuttle Bridge Hotel,
Minworth,
Birmingham,
B76 9DP.
Call 01675 639063

Living History at The Commandery
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Commandery,
Sibbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU.
Call 01905 361821

Short Introductory Talk: Help and Healing on the Spiritual Path
Tomorrow,
The Polish Millenium Centre,
Birmingham, B5 5PH.
Call 0121 643 3577

Understanding Material Loss
Tomorrow,
The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TT.
Call 0121 414 4117

Ceramic Crafts
Tomorrow - Thu, £3 - £4
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

Photographic Prize 2017
Today - Thu,
RBSA Gallery,
Birmingham, B3 1SA.
Call 0121 236 4353

Draw Something KS3
Mon,
MAC Theatre, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Love Worcester! Love Nature!
Mon,
Worcester City Art Gallery,
WR1 1DT.
Call 01905 25371

Messy Museum
Mon,
Wrexham Museums, LL14 4HT.
Call 01978 292000

Fantastic Beasts
Mon - Thu,
Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre,
Craven Arms, SY7 9RS.
Call 01588 676060

Uncovering Mysteries
Tue,
The Commandery,
Sibbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU.
Call 01905 361821

Explore Learning Workshop
Tue,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

So You Think You Know About Dinosaurs
Tue,
Malvern Theatres,
WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Focus on human skills and thrills at the circus



The Lucius motorcycle stunt rider team hurtle around the Globe of Terror at 60mph in the Cirque Berserk show coming to Birmingham Rep

ROLL up, roll up for the greatest show in Brum as Cirque Berserk, a circus show designed for theatres rather than a big top, comes to Birmingham Rep.

The thrilling stunt action and circus skills extravaganza, which also boasts a fire breathing giant robot, returns to the Centenary Square venue by popular demand.

This circus follows a no-animals policy with the emphasis on the incredible abilities of the human performers.

These include the Globe of Terror – if you thought the Wall of Death was a scary motorcycle stunt, wait until you see four bikers speeding around the inside of a steel cage at over 60mph.

The troupe of more than 30 performers includes acrobats, jugglers and aerial acts. Among the star turns are Czech knife thrower Toni, who also hurls axes; Mongolian contortionist

Odka, who can accurately fire an arrow from a bow using her feet; the Timbuktu Tumblers with their human pyramids; and master of slapstick Tweedy the clown.

Cirque Berserk are at Birmingham Rep from Monday to Sunday (February 20-26), including Friday, Saturday and Sunday matinees.

For tickets cost from £15 to £30 (concessions and group discounts available), see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Family first for rock Kings

THEY were once the hardest-partying band on the road. Kings of Leon boozed their way through the noughties, carousing around the world as their six studio albums racked up millions of sales, propelled them to number one around the globe and earned them 68 platinum discs.

Kings of Leon comprise brothers Caleb Followill, on vocals, alongside drummer Nathan and bassist Jared with cousin Matthew on lead guitar. They formed in 1999 in Nashville fusing southern rock and blues, and developed their sound on their way to becoming a stadium band.

By 2011 Kings of Leon were playing to 50,000 festival fans after their hit, *Sex on Fire*, had taken them to the top of the bill. Band members weren't talking to each other, they were travelling in separate cars.

Nathan says the band had to take a break. "We got to take a little time away and be with our families and get to be husbands and daddies for a while, and not musicians. Now three of us have kids, and we're all married, so the priorities change as your family grows."

Lyrics

"This record was a little different because we did have so much time off. We all went into the studio having not been together for a while, musically, and it was cool to see where our heads were musically. Caleb does a majority of the lyrics but this record was the first one in a while where we were all very involved lyrically and was kind of a team effort."

All four Followills are married and all but Jared are parents. "Our kids all go to the same school," says Matthew. Nathan adds: "You can tell us apart from the other parents – we're the ones smoking weed underneath the bleachers."

Kings of Leon play the Genting Arena at the NEC on Monday.

One and only Chesney with Chip in Robin 2 line-up

TWO talented Black Country musicians will be performing at Bilston venue the Robin 2 next week.

On Wednesday Wolverhampton's Pete Kent brings his unique percussive fingerstyle of acoustic guitar playing, which has seen him win plaudits from top musicians. Support comes from Tom Rushton and Dom Robson Tull at this all-seated show. Tickets are £9 on the door, cheaper in advance. On Thursday (February 23) Strat-wielding local bluesman Ian Parker and his Band are at the Mount Pleasant venue. Tickets £12.50 advance or £15 door.

Other highlights include The Counterfeit Stones this Saturday and a father-and-son gig on Sunday by 'The One and Only' Chesney Hawkes and father Chip, formerly of The Tremeloes, at this seated show. See therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Everything is Awesome as indie pop twins visit

CANADIAN pop twins Tegan and Sara, of The Lego Movie hit *Everything is Awesome*, are at Birmingham O2 Institute on Saturday. The same venue hosts Liverpoolian boyband MiC LOWRY on Sunday, US indie rock outfit Band of Horses on Monday and Norfolk rockers Deaf Havana with *Dinosaur Pile Up* on Tuesday.

Punk bands Sad Sally, Clobber and Rich Gulag play the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday, and the pub venue hosts the hard to pronounce duo Tonstartssbandh on Tuesday and US dream pop band Wild Nothing on Wednesday. Shush and The Harringtons share a five band bill at Brum's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday. Greek metal outfit Firewind play Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms on Saturday. Superstar rapper Drake is at the Barclaycard Arena on Wednesday and Thursday.

Dance, mystery and a serious drama on stage

A WIDE variety of theatre is on offer, from ballet and a pop musical, to circus (see above), a whodunnit and drama.

Michael Jackson tribute musical Thriller is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre Tuesday to Saturday. Birmingham Royal Ballet return to the Hippodrome to perform family favourite *Cinderella* until February 25. Whilst the main house at Birmingham Rep hosts Cirque Berserk, a powerful new play is at its studio theatre The Door. All The Little Lights (February 22-25) tells of the friendship of three teenage girls, preyed on by abusers.

The Agatha Christie Theatre Company, with a cast including Sophie Ward, Mark Wynter and Shirley Ann Field, stage Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement In Stone* at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday 18th February 2017 Valentine's DISCO £3 Adv £4 on door	Friday 24th February 2017 ALI CAMPBELL TRIBUTE (BY ADRIAN JAKEWAYS AJ OF UB40) £5 Adv £7 on door	Saturday 25th February 2017 JASON JONES £10 Adv £12 on door
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Saturday 18th March 2017 MEMPHIS MIKE ELVIS TRIBUTE £6 Adv £8 on door	Saturday 25th March 2017 MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE RETURN OF THE KING £15 adv £17 on door	Friday 31st March 2017 TOM JONES TRIBUTE BY TONY GOLD £5 adv £7 on door
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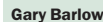
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DIGITAL



00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen; Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Live Athletics: Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix. Core Body Blast. **2.00** The Big Arena in Birmingham. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News. **5.20** Regional Programme. **5.25** Who Dares Wins. **6.10** *Pointless* Celebrities. "A 'law and order' special," with Helen Fraser, Victoria Alcock, Roberta Taylor, Chris Gardner, Arthur Bostrom, Minna Anwar, Dominic Littlewood and Matt Allwright. (R) **6.55** *Let It Shine*. The semi-final arrives, and the four remaining boy-bands display their dance skills, before Graham Norton and Chris Cledroy give the winners a chance to champion their favourite act. **7.55** *Casualty*. Iain is unexpectedly reunited with his sister when he is called out to an emergency involving his mother, but his efforts to make amends for his past have unforeseen repercussions. The hospital is inundated with binge drinkers, including a hen party that has ended with the bride getting shot while trying to make amends. Dylan struggles to cope, but the experience gives him an idea. Grace returns to work, but seems to have lost her ability to talk. **8.45** *Let It Shine – The Results*. The show winds from the viewer vote to progress to the final; the results arrive, leaving the bottom two to fight for the third spot – but the judges have a twist in store. **9.15** *Taboo*. James Delaney loses everything, and as the Crown and the British India Company conspire against him, a battle of wits places even his freedom in jeopardy. **10.15** BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** *MOTD: FA Cup Highlights*. Action from the fifth round of matches, including Huddersfield Town v Millwall at Wembley, and Cardiff v Middlesbrough v Oxford United. **11.40** *The Country*. Daisy May and Charlie Cooper's mockumentary continues, as Kerry's neighbour Mandy Harris opens a tattoo business. **12.05** *Film*: Having You. (2013) **1.40** *News* for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

3.00 Film: Stage Door. (1937) **7.55** Film: Lucky Jim. (1957) **9.30** Coast.
10.00 Britain's Secret Seas. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** A Cook Abroad: John Torode's Argentina. (R) **1.00** The Ties That Bind. (1986) Hurt.
3.10 Film: An Ideal Husband. (1999)
Oscar Wilde comedy drama, starring
Cate Blanchett. **3.00** Escape to the
Country. (R) **3.45** Mastermind. (R) **4.15**
University Challenge. (R) **4.45** Only
Fools and Horses. (R) **5.15** Nature's Wildest
Events. (R)

6.00 **Flog It!** David Barbry and Catherine
Southon view antiques at
Buckland Abbey in Devon,
including a French revolver and a
beautiful ivory doll. The programme also
studies an ancient maths book, and
is taken for a ride at the
Dingles Fairground Heritage
Centre. (R)

7.00 **The Lake District: A Wild Year.**
Cutting-edge camera techniques
offer a new and exciting perspective
on a turbulent year in the life of
England's largest national park.
Narrated by Bernard Cribbins. (R)

8.00 **Grand Tours of the Scottish**
Highlands. New series. Piat Murtin
returns to explore more of the remote
and fascinating places that lie off
the mainland, beginning by visiting
Bernersy, Grimsay, Kirkibost and
Pabbay. (R)

8.30 **Dad's Army.** The platoon defends
himself against members of the Highland
Regiment. Classic episode from
1969, starring Arthur Lowe and
John Le Mesurier. (R)

9.00 **Film: Testament of Youth.** (2014)
Period drama. When her fiancé and
brother are sent to the front line
during the early days of the First
World War, a young woman gives
up her studies at Oxford University
to follow them. She becomes a
nurse, and witnesses the horrors she
witnesses during the conflict
change her outlook on life forever.
Period drama based on the
memoirs of writer Vera Brittain,
starring Alicia Vikander. (K)
Hemdale and Talking Pictures.

11.05 **Film: Save Haven.** (2013)
A woman trying to make a fresh start
in a coastal town realises she must
confront the dark past she is
running from. Romantic drama,
with Vanessa Hough. (R)

12.15 **Film: The Wind Risen.**
3.10 This Is RCBC Two.

6.20 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! (6.20) Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures, (R) 6.30 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures, (R) 6.45 Sooty (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story (R) 7.00 Oddbods (R) 7.05 The Big Bang Theory (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.30 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Teen Titans (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School 8.55 Scrambled!: Adventure Time (R) 9.25 ITV Hits 9.30 Alphabetical (R) 10.30 Guess This House (R) 11.25 Judge Rinder (R) 12.25 ITV Hits: Weather: 12.35 River of the Gods (R) 1.05 Tiptop (R) 2.05 The Chase (R) 3.10 Dance Dance Dance (R) 4.40 Regional Programme: Weather: 4.55 ITV Hits: Weather: 5.10 Film: Despicable Me, (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Steve Carell.

9.00 Ninja Warrior UK. The final round of the world's toughest challenge arrives, as Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Karmira invite the most successful participants from throughout this series to return to the course and push their speed and agility to the limit once again. Last in the series.

8.00 The Voice UK. The spinning-chair singing contest reaches a crucial stage, as Emma Willis introduces the seventh and final Blind Auditions. As always, another selection of would-be stars are ushered onto the stage to perform, under by judges Jennifer Hudson, Gavin Rossdale, Will.i.am and Tom Jones, who must signal their approval by pulling their spinning chairs. Next week, the judges' teams are forced to face off in the Battle phase.

9.20 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon hosts a revival of the classic game show originally presented by David Walliams. Celebrity panelists David Haste, Sam Longchambon and Dave Berry are given a guided tour to three mystery homes, and are challenged to guess the identities of the famous occupants.

10.20 ITV Hits: Weather.

10.35 Film: Knocked Up. (2007) An ambitious journalist unexpectedly becomes pregnant after a one-night stand with a directionless layabout. Romantic comedy, with Rachel Watson.

10.25 Jackpot247, 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes?(R) 3.30 ITV Hits: News

7.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The King of Queens. (R) **9.30** Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke returns to Brxham in Devon, where he previously met Neil Worrall and Jackie Robinson, who moved in to an old field house's church 18 months ago. Now, the pair are busy running their adopted town's tourist attraction – a replica of Sir Frances Drake's ship the Golden Hind. He also visits Dartmoor, where he's stunned by an ambitious renovator Neil has just bought 200 square metres of mysterious underground corridors.

8.00 Great Galaxies Journeys. Timothy Winton and Prunell Scales take a two-stage trip across Scotland, travelling along the Caledonian Canal before venturing on a 60-mile journey into the Highlands. (R)

9.00 Film: Taken 2 (2012) Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and they together fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace and Famke Janssen.

10.50 Film: Bourne Legacy. (2012) A government assassin goes on the run when his employers try to bury their dark secrets by having him killed. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner and Rachel Weisz.

1.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **3.00** Kirstie's Fix Your House for Free. (R)

10.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Ases. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Benefits: 26 Kids and Claiming. (R) **1.35** Benefits: The Millionaire. (R) **2.10** The Nightnight Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.35** The Nightnight Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.30** 5 News Weekend. **4.35** Nightnight Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **5.30** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.30** **Football on 5**: **5.15** **Football on 5**: **Aires**: The Buenos Aires Prix. Coverage of the third round of the campaign from Puerto Madero Street Circuit in Argentina. This is the only circuit to have featured in all six seasons of this motor racing championship, and has proven to be a successful venue for Great Britain's Sam Bird, who recorded the fastest lap here in 2015, and then went on to win the race in 2016. (R)

8.10 **Secrets of the Great Train Robbery**. Crime documentary, detailing the many mistakes, bad decisions and careless errors made by the gang responsible for the £2.6m train robbery of August 8, 1963. (R)

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship**. George Riley and Lynsey Higrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including **Barnsley City v Queens Park Rangers** at St Andrew's, **Barnsley v Brighton** and **Hove Albion** at Oakwell, and **Wigan Athletic v Preston North End** at DW Stadium. (R)

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush**. All the goals from the weekend's games in the Championship and Two, including **Sheff Wed United v Scunthorpe United** and **Hartlepool United v Plymouth Argyle**. (R)

10.30 **NCIS**. An investigation into the death of a retired US Navy lieutenant commander, **James Ducky** to reveal he has been helping to solve crimes in his spare time. (R)

11.25 **NCIS: Los Angeles**. Deeks places his job in danger when he shoots a suspect in an underground car race. (R)

12.15 **SuperCanso**. **3.10** **Magic Makes You Laugh Out Loud**. (R) **4.00** **On Benefits**: To Heat or to Eat? That's the Question. (R) **4.10** **House Doctor**. **5.15** **Nick's Ousted**. (R)

8BC Four
7.00 Indian Hill Railways **8.00** Ford's Dagenham Dream **9.00** Treasures of Ancient Egypt **10.00** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.30** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.05** Rock 'n' Roll: America's 350 Sounds of the '70s **2.00** Soul — Keep on Keeping on **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.20 Ninja Warrior UK **12.20** Take Me Out **1.35** You've Been Framed! **Gold 2.10** **Film:** Honey (2003) **3.40** **FYI Daily:** **3.15** **Film:** Honey (2003) **3.40** **FYI Film:** St. Trinian's (2007) **4.05** **Film:** St. Trinian's (2007) **4.05** **Film:** After Earth (2013) **4.05** **FYI Daily:** **4.10** **Film:** After Earth (2013) **4.05** **Scorpion** **9.00** **Film:** Hot Fuzz (2007) **10.05** **FYI Daily:** **10.10** **Film:** Hot Fuzz (2007) **11.25** **Familly Guy** **11.55** **Film:** The Hunchback of Notre Dame: The Hounds: Famoso & Freaked **2.35** Planet's Funniest Animals **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.05 **Film:** Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey (1993) **1.05** **Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **2.05** **FYI Daily:** **2.10** **Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **2.55** **Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **2.55** **FYI Daily:** **4.00** **Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel (1967) **4.55** **Wycliffe:** **6.00** **Midsomer Murders** **8.00** **Doc Martin** **9.00** **Midsomer Murders** **11.00** **Law & Order: Criminal Intent** **11.00** **Wycliffe:** **1.05** **Marchlands** **2.00** **FYI Daily:** **2.50** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Racing Cars **12.00** Prawn Stars **1.30** **ITV Racing Live** **4.00** **Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **5.55** **FYI Daily:** **5.10** **Film:** Rio Bravo (1959) **6.05** **FYI Live:** Monsters **9.05** **Film:** The Specialist (1994) **10.10** **Film:** The Specialist (1994) **10.10** **FYI Daily:** **10.15** **Film:** The Specialist (1994) **11.10** **FYI Daily:** **11.25** **Film:** Exit Wounds (2012) **12.20** **FYI Daily:** **12.25** **Film:** Exit Wounds (2012) **1.30** **Hell on Wheels** **2.55** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** **FYI Daily:** **2.55** Hogan's Heroes **2.55** **FYI Daily:** **2.55** Teleshopping

Gold
11.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.00** The Edinburgh 3.00 The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film:** Knight and Day (2010) **10.10** **Gogglebox** **16.10** **5.50** **Gogglebox:** Celebrity Special For Stand Up To Cancer **1.00** **Celebs Go Dating** **3.00** **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **3.45** **Revenge** (ish) **10.25** **FYI Daily:** **1.05** **Revenge**

Film4
11.00 ParaNorman (2012) **1.00** **Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer** (2011) **2.45** **Scrooged** (1988) **4.50** **Moontide Kingdom** (2012) **6.40** **Tootsie** (1982) **9.00** **St Vincent** (2014) **11.05** **2.25** **FYI Daily:** (2009) **12.50** **Stripes** (1981) **2.30** **Close**

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CHOICE



Sam Riley

SS-GB (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Drama set in an alternate history of the Second World War where Germany won the Battle of Britain and has gone on to occupy the UK. In 1941, two Scotland Yard detectives investigate the murder of a nuclear scientist, under constant surveillance from their SS superiors. The arrival of an American journalist leaves one of the policemen convinced something more danger is at work - while a contact in a resistance movement reveals a threat to his own son. Sam Riley, Kate Bosworth, Rainer Bock, Aneurin Barnard, Christina Cole, Maeve Dermody, Lars Eidinger and James Cosmo.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.50** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.00** BBC News. **Weather**. **12.15** Film: Shrek Forever After. (2010) Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. **1.40** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Fulham v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Lifestile. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme. **6.00** The Big Painting Challenge. Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles take the contestants on a trip to Hastings, where they must put their landscape painting skills to the test by working in the open air - and the weather turns out to be against them. The first challenge sees them capturing the town's newly refurbished pier on canvas, before they are turned in the opposite direction to paint the view of the shoreline from the pier. A panel made of local residents choose their favourite painting, before the judges announce who will be leaving the show. **7.00** Countryfile. Ellie Harrison helps with the annual clean-up at Cheddar Gorge, abseiling down the cliffs to check for dangerous loose rocks and helping volunteers to clear back the undergrowth. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Call the Midwife. Trixie tries her hand at dentistry, while the nurses discover what has happened to Sister Mary Cynthia, a revelation that has distressing consequences. **9.00** SS-GB. New series. Drama set in an alternate history of the Second World War where Britain is under German occupation. Two Scotland Yard detectives investigate the murder of a nuclear scientist. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. Action from the fifth round of matches, featuring Blackburn Rovers v Manchester United, and Fulham v Tottenham Hotspur. **11.10** American High School. A revelation about the captain of the basketball team's personal life threatens his future. **11.55** The Celebrity Apprentice USA. **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.30** An Island Parish. (R) **8.00** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **12.40** Nigellissima. (R) **12.30** A Cook Abroad: Rick Stein's Australia. (R) **1.30** Omar Sharif: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.00** Film: Funny Lady. (1975) Musical comedy sequel, starring Barbra Streisand. **4.15** Birds of Paradise: The Ultimate Quest. (R) **5.15** Ski Sunday. **6.00** Film: Oz the Great and Powerful. (2013) An aural circus illusionist is transported to a magical land, where he is mistaken for a powerful wizard prophesied to fall from the sky and save the realm from evil. His attempt to take advantage of the situation leads him into a dangerous quest involving three powerful witches. Fantasy adventure prequel to The Wizard of Oz, starring James Franco, Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Williams. **8.00** Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins assess the profit-making potential of a self-igniting wood-burning stove, a new kind of dating app, a range of authentic ethnic snacks and a fitness company for children. Presented by Evan Davis. **9.00** Special Forces - Ultimate Hell Week. Reggie Yates brings the contestants to South Korea to train under an officer from the country's Underwater Demolition Team. The recruits face a series of gruelling challenges, including dragging truck tyres up hills, carrying boats on their heads and facing the unusual exercise known as the Thinking Man Position. **10.00** Film: Being AP. (2015) Premiere. Documentary about jockey AP McCoy, following him as he weighs up his desire to score a record-breaking number of victories with the pressure to retire from horse racing. **11.40** Film: Defiance. (2008) Three Jewish brothers escape into the forests during the Nazi invasion of Poland and form a resistance movement. Second World War drama, starring Daniel Craig and Jamie Bell. **1.45** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.45** Holby City. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **7.35** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.20** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Teen Titans Go! **9.05** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News. **Weather**. **12.45** Film: Carry On Jack. (1963) Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins. **2.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **3.10** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **4.15** The Voice UK. (R) **5.30** Tipping Point. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme. **Weather**. **6.40** ITV News. **Weather**. **7.00** Take Me Out Celebrity Special. Paddy McGuinness presents a special edition of the dating show, with TOWIE's James Aarørg Argent, presenter Melvin Odom and Olympic gymnast Nile Wilson entering the 'love lift' in the hope of impressing 30 single women returning from previous series and persuading them to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. **8.00** Lion Country: Night and Day. With the rains due, it seems lion cubs Prince and Ziggy may finally have a chance of surviving this perilous season. Against all odds they seem to have finally been accepted into the pride and won the approval of the dominant males - but a jealous lioness intends to get rid of them. Rogue males invade the territory of the Hollywood pride, and the lionesses face a struggle to keep their newborn cubs safe. Narrated by David Morrissey. Last in the series. **9.00** The Good Karma Hospital. An abandoned baby is brought to the hospital, and Lydia is reunited with an expat artist, whose unusual lifestyle may be about to catch up with him. **10.00** ITV News. **Weather**. **10.20** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. (R) **11.15** Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 15th round of fixtures. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Chopping Block. (R) **3.50** ITV NightScreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** The Simpsons. (R) **2.35** Film: Addams Family Values. (1993) Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia. **4.30** Channel 4 News. **5.00** Film: The Karate Kid. (2010) An American boy living in China falls foul of bullies, until a kindly kung fu master teaches him the skills to defend himself. Martial arts drama, with Jason Smith and Jackie Chan. **7.30** The Jump. The remaining celebrity contestants compete in the skeleton event, which requires them to ride down a twisted track on a heavy metal sled with their faces millimetres from the ice. The losers in each race will then have to face the jump to decide who will be the next to leave the series. Presented by Davina McCall. **9.00** Film: X-Men: Days of Future Past. (2014) Premiere. In a future ravaged by war, the superhero team makes a desperate last stand against a force of deadly robots. Their only hope is to send Wolverine back in time to the 1970s, to join forces with an earlier version of the X-Men and change the events that started the conflict. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Hugh Jackman, Jennifer Lawrence, James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender. **11.40** Film: Lawless. (2012) Three brothers running a Depression-era bootlegging operation come under threat from a corrupt sheriff. Crime drama, starring Shia LaBeouf, Tom Hardy and Jason Clarke. **1.40** The Last Leg. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R) **2.35** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) **4.25** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. Kirstie Allsopp helps transform a Worcester home that seems to be stuck in a 1980s time warp. (R) **4.40** Four in a Bed. The contestants meet one last time to discover how much they have been paid by their fellow hoteliers, before discovering who has won the competition. (R) **5.10** Fifteen to One. Sandi Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.55** Rupert Bear. (R) **7.05** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.10** Whanda and the Alien. (R) **7.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Inside Windsor Castle. (R) **12.55** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R) **1.55** Film: Seabiscuit. (2003) **4.30** 5 News. **4.35** Film: National Lampoon's Vacation. (1983) **6.25** Film: National Lampoon's European Vacation. (1985) The disaster-prone Griswolds win a holiday touring Europe on a game show - and proceed to cause mayhem wherever they go. Comedy sequel, with Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angel. Edited for language and sexual content. Includes 5 News Update. **8.10** That's So 1985. A look at events in 1985 using news, pop and TV archive clips to provide a reminder of the time, including the Live Aid concerts prompted by the famine in Ethiopia. (R) **9.00** The Freddie Mercury Story: Who Wants to Live Forever? Documentary made to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen frontman's death, which explores two of the most important years in his life, from the band's iconic performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985 to his diagnosis with Aids in 1987. The programme examines his struggle to keep his private life out of the tabloids and to continue recording music in the face of his failing health. Featuring contributions from family and friends, including chauffeur and bodyguard Terry Giddings, who shares his account of the final years for the first time. (R) **11.05** 20 Moments that Rocked the 80s. Cherie Lunghi presents. (R) **12.35** Lip Sync Battle. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.00** World's Most Pampered Pets. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Sound of Song **8.00** Life of a Mountain: A Year on Blencathra **9.00** Tom Waits: Tales from a Cracked Jukebox **10.00** The Cult Next Door **11.00** Film: Phoenix (2014) **12.35** Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered **1.35** Order and Disorder with Jim Al-Khalili **2.35** Life of a Mountain: A Year on Blencathra **3.35** Close **ITV2**
1.40 2Awesome: Fame High **1.55** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.25** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.45** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10** Film: The Haunted Mansion (2003) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** Film: The Haunted Mansion (2003) **4.55** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** Film: The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.00** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** Film: Jack and Jill (2011) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Ibiza Weekender **1.55** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 NightScreen **ITV3**
12.40 Film: Hidden Treasure (2001) **2.45** Wycliffe **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** The Royal Variety Performance 2016 **10.35** Birds of a Feather **11.10** Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Steptoe and Son Ride Again (1973) **1.15** Inspector Morse **3.05** May the Best Horse Win **4.50** On the Buses **ITV4**
2.20 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **3.25** FYI Daily **3.30** Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **4.10** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union Highlights **9.05** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: Memphis Belle (1990) **11.10** Film: The Road (2009) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: The Road (2009) **1.25** Lawrence Daltiglog: Sports Life Stories **2.25** Heroes **2.50** ITV4 NightScreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
1.50 The Big Bang Theory: Catch Up **7.15** Film: Men in Black II (2002) **9.00** Film: Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Film: The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **12.05** Celebs Go Dating **3.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.50** Hollywoods **Film4**
11.00 Destiny (1954) **1.00** Endless Love (2014) **3.05** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.50** Never Been Kissed (1999) **6.55** Tooth Fairy (2010) **9.00** Father (2010) **10.55** The Fourth Kind (2009)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Lifetime of Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Returning home for her brother's funeral, Sayre Hoyle attempts to unravel the truth about his death. While she is in the neighbourhood, she must also deal with her strained relationship with her corrupt businessman father and the romantic attentions of his lawyer. Mystery, starring Shenae Grimes-Beech, Sean Faris and John Schneider. (2016)

TUESDAY

Carry On Henry, ITV, 11.40pm

King Henry VIII plots to rid himself of his new French wife when her craving for garlic becomes too much to cope with. However, he cannot afford to anger the king of France, and tries to make it look as if his queen has had an affair. Comedy, starring Sid James, Joan Sims, Kenneth Williams, Terry Scott, Charles Hawtrey and Barbara Windsor. (1971)



Seven Pounds, Wednesday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY

Seven Pounds, Channel 5, 11.05pm

A man haunted by a tragedy he caused seeks redemption. Assuming his tax inspector brother's identity to gain access to people's private records, he sets out to atone by helping seven seemingly unconnected strangers with their problems – only to fall in love with one of the people he assists. Drama, starring Will Smith, Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson and Barry Pepper. (2008)

THURSDAY

Deadly Paradise, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A millionaire treats her friends to an all-expenses-paid holiday in Hawaii. But when her money is stolen, she sets out for revenge. Thriller, starring Boti Bliss. (2016)

FRIDAY

Man on a Ledge, Channel 4, 12.55am

An escaped convict climbs onto the outside of a skyscraper and threatens to jump. The police psychologist sent to talk him down begins to suspect there is an agenda behind this suspicious-seeming suicide bid, while the prisoner's brother takes advantage of the ensuing chaos to carry out a plan of his own. Thriller, with Sam Worthington. (2012)

The stars will be out to shine at the O2

It's that time of year again when musicians have too much to drink; a record industry bigwig or politician makes either a dull speech or attempts to appear 'down with the kids', and the hosts try to keep the (heavily branded) gong show from over-running.

Sadly Michael Buble had to drop out of MCing The Brit Awards 2017 due to family issues, so the ever amiable Dermot O'Leary and Emma Willis will be sharing hosting duties.

"The Brits is an iconic show that I've watched and attended many times," explains Dermot. "It's a holy grail for a broadcaster, and I'm really looking forward to working with Emma, who I'm a big fan of, and celebrating a brilliant year of British music."

Mrs Willis is equally thrilled to be taking part.

"I had an awesome time presenting the nominations show this year and I am delighted to be asked back for the main event," she enthuses.

One woman who will be thrilled to pick up another gong is Ellie Goulding.

In 2010, after winning the BBC's

'Sound Of...' contest, she might have looked like just another startlet enjoying their 15 minutes of fame, but she proved to be one of the most formidable singer-songwriters of her generation.

A string of hit albums, including Lights and Delirium, and singles like Love Me Like You Do, from the 50 Shades of Grey movie, helped make her a global superstar, with 1.3 (US) billion hits for that video alone. It helps that You On My Mind, another track from that album, proved equally infectious.

Little wonder a shampoo company jumped at the chance to sign her up, while girls around the world have been inspired to write their own songs based on Goulding's success.

There's also little surprise she's been nominated as British Female Solo Artist at this year's back-slapping ceremony. She's up against Anohni; Emeli Sande; Lianne La Havas, and Nao.

After staging a Lazarus-style comeback, Craig David is up for British Male Solo Artist, along with the

much missed David Bowie; Kano; Michael Kiwanuka, and Skepta.

And in the Best British Group category, the 1975 takes on Bastille; Bliffy Olyro; Little Mix, and Radiohead.

One of the biggest singles of the past year was Rockabye, the Clean Bandit smash featuring Sean Paul and Anne-Marie. It spent nine consecutive weeks at number one, and landed the all-important Christmas top slot. That knocked Little Mix's Shout Out to My Ex off the top slot, and both are in the running for British Single.

With the passing of Leonard Cohen, there's no shock to see him up for International Solo Artist, or Bowie's final LP Blackstar up for British Album of the Year.

Among those performing at London's O2 are Robbie Williams, Ed Sheeran, Little Mix, the 1975 and Ms Sande.

So, if your tickets got lost in the post, settle back and enjoy, content in the knowledge you won't have a long queue for the loos during the ad breaks.



Dermot O'Leary hosts, The Brit Awards 2017, Wednesday, ITV, 7.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup

BBC1, 7.30pm

Sutton United v Arsenal (Kick-off 7.55pm). Coverage of the fifth-round fixture, which takes place at the Borough Sports Ground, as the non-league side look to cause a huge upset against the 12-time winners of the competition. Sutton have already defeated three Football League teams to reach this stage, with their scalp of Championship high-flyers Leeds United in round four causing the biggest stir. Arsene Wenger will be wary of taking tonight's opponents lightly, and may go against his usual cup policy of blooding the young players, with the artificial turf at the Borough Sports Ground adding an extra layer of unpredictability to the contest.

TUESDAY

Inside No 9

BBC2, 10pm

The opening episode of season three aired at Christmas, but here's the real gift – another five nail-biting, scary and darkly amusing tales from Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith. What's more, a fourth series has already been commissioned, so there's even more fun and games on their way. Here, Jason Watkins and Philip Glenister make guest appearances as two of a

group of friends who, after a game of badminton, head to a restaurant for some tapas and a few drinks. It's a lot of fun – until the question of paying the bill comes up, turning what had been a pleasant evening into a shocking event that will change the lives of those involved. As you might expect it's a taut, perfectly timed 30 minutes – just keep in mind what happens the next time you head out for a meal with pals.

WEDNESDAY

The Royal House of Windsor

Channel 4, 9pm

New series. Documentary telling the story of the great dynasty, which began in 1917 when King George V changed the royal family's name from the unpopular German Saxe-Coburg and Gotha due to the anti-German sentiment in the British Empire that raged during the First World War. To mark the 100th anniversary of the moniker, this series uses the help of family insiders, fresh research and unique access to the royal archives at Windsor Castle to reveal the human frailties and secrets behind Britain's most powerful clan.

THURSDAY

Mafia Women with Trevor McDonald

ITV, 9pm

The veteran broadcaster presents the second of two programmes lifting the lid on the riches, the pain and the sense of betrayal that life with a mobster can bring – and this time his journey brings him to a series of secret locations meeting mob wives who are all hiding from the Mafia with their partners. They include Donna Mangiavillano, her daughters Stefanie and Victoria and husband Salvatore, who once masterminded bank heists for the mob – only to betray his bosses to the FBI. Now the family live in fear that one day the Mafia will exact its revenge.



Inside No 9, Tuesday, BBC2, 10pm

Born Too White

BBC2, 9pm

An examination of the persecution and discrimination of people with albinism in

Tanzania and Malawi, East Africa. Doctor Oscar Duke, who himself has albinism, embarks on a journey to discover what life is like for people who share his condition in these countries. He meets young people facing the brunt of discrimination, from a 15-year-old who was mutilated in an attack, to the 280- children placed in a secure camp for people with albinism in Tanzania. Oscar also confronts some of those responsible for making these people's lives a living hell – and comes face to face with an 'albino hunter' imprisoned for murder.

FRIDAY

Schofield's South African Adventure

ITV, 8pm

In this new three-part series, the This Morning host leaves his comfy sofa with Holly Willoughby behind for a personal trip of a lifetime to South Africa with his wife Stephanie. While swimming with dolphins is on many people's bucket lists, Phillip opts for a more nerve-wracking experience by choosing to dive alongside great white sharks. To make sure he's as safe as anyone can be when having such an experience, he travels to Gansbaai, where he is kitted out in undersea equipment, before entering a cage to catch a glimpse of one of the world's most dangerous predators. It's not all scary adventures though - the couple also visit the city of Cape Town.

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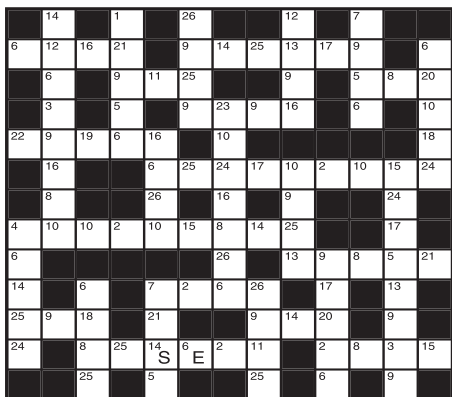
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Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	C	D	T	B	Z	X	K	F	S	Y	N	H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	E	A	M	J	Q	L	V	I	U	P	B	G

1	14 S
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 E	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

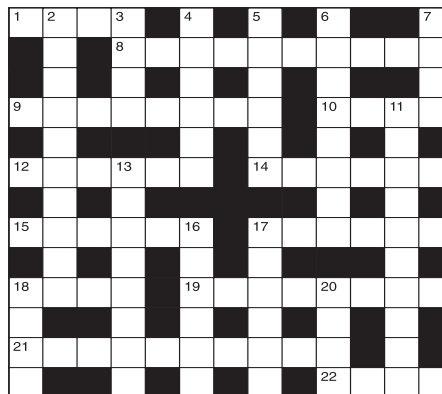
Across

Across

1. Thought I'd half of each (4)
8. Expelled from the army band? (7,3)
9. Remove a summary (8)
10. Get near about (4)
12. Nobleman getting into New York, almost (6)
14. Gives up the struggle with crops (6)
15. Coats for nosy people, we hear (6)
17. Animals produce it, humans leave it (6)
18. Be inclined to rely on others for support? (4)
19. Two girls useful in the kitchen (8)
21. Be too tired to keep up? (4,6)
22. One of the wise men tucked into the turkey (4)

Down

2. Large drink taken with fruit on a social engagement (6,4)
3. An entrance I'd turn in at (4)
4. After a quick start it's simple to be unsettled (6)
5. In which to find a forger's (6)
6. He daren't upset one who follows (8)
7. Public school of rising reputation (4)
11. It's diverting, though irrelevant (3,7)
13. Don't leave out! (8)
16. The force of emphasis (6)
17. 50 is 10? Pay attention! (6)
18. Felt confused and didn't stay (4)
20. For centuries they ignored America (4)



Quick Clues:

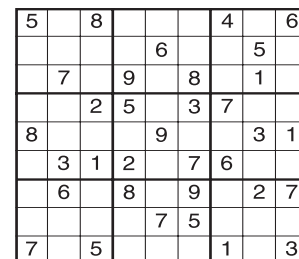
Across

1. Lofty (4)
8. Improve (10)
9. Substance (8)
10. Mimic (4)
12. Inconstant (6)
14. Tidings (6)
15. Grovelling (6)
17. Preferably (6)
18. Signify (4)
19. Close (8)
21. Convincing (10)
22. Wait upon (4)

Down

2. Changeless (10)
3. Healthy (4)
4. Gadget (6)
5. Assassin (6)
6. Eccentric (8)
7. Refuse (4)
11. Faultlessness (10)
13. Enthusiasm (8)
16. Clannish (6)
17. Keep (6)
18. Be depressed (4)
20. Confront (4)

29



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9

LAST WEEK'S

5	6	2	8	3	9	1	7
3	4	1	7	2	5	6	8
8	9	7	6	1	4	3	2
6	8	4	1	9	7	5	3
2	1	3	4	5	8	7	9
7	5	9	3	6	2	4	1
4	2	5	9	7	3	8	6
1	3	8	7	4	6	9	5
9	7	6	5	8	1	2	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Latch; 8 Amorous;
 9 Illicit; 10 Event; 12 Face to face; 15 Fratricide;
 18 Satan; 19 Archaic; 21 Barbers; 22 Theme.
 Down: 1 Plaintiffs; 2 Still; 3 Chic; 4 Rattle;
 5 Foreword; 6 Polecat; 11 Treble clef;
 13 Arranged; 14 Battery; 16 Chaise; 17 Caper;
 20 Cut a.
 QUICK - Across: 7 Notch; 8 Overrun; 9 Incense
 10 Dread; 12 Abstemious; 15 Tantamount;
 18 Cling; 19 Truance; 21 Enlarge; 22 Local.
 Down: 1 Antiseptic; 2 Stock; 3 Shun; 4 Potent;
 5 Heidan; 6 Freedom; 11 Deservedly;
 13 Braggart; 14 Entitle; 16 Outset; 17 Hutch;
 20 Ahle

1. What is a serval?
2. What is the name of the traditional Muslim women's headscarf?
3. For which film did choirmistress Iris Stevenson provide the inspiration?
4. In which city is Maracana football stadium?
5. Which former deputy prime minister was nicknamed Tarzan?
6. Which substance takes its name from the Italian for 'baked earth'?
7. Of what type of animal in the yapok the only aquatic variety?
8. The USSR's invasion of which country in 1940 was known as the Winter War?
9. Which actor starred in The 39 Steps and Jesus of Nazareth?
10. By what name do we know the tree Pyrus communis?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Erich Maria Remarque; 2 US, French and Australian Opens; 3 Martin Luther; 4 Testosterone; 5 Five; 6 Artificial intelligence; 7 Teeth; 8 Panorama; 9 French; 10 Middlesbrough.

Niner: SPEARMINT

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

48963 gives a tree,
675 gives a second tree,
713248 gives a third tree.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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The lamb chops were delicious but the mash was tops



Chicken goujons were served as the starter



The Parkbrook Bar & Grill offers loads of space for a family celebration



Cosy – you'll get a warm welcome here

Monster mash gives rest of meal the chop as food fails to hit spot

THERE'S nothing wrong with pushing the boat out and paying more than you'd normally deem acceptable for good food every once in a while.

But it is annoying is when you splash the cash on food that doesn't quite hit the spot. Unfortunately, this is what happened on a midweek trip to The Parkbrook.

In truth, this was by no means a terrible meal. There was nothing particularly wrong with what we ate, but it just seemed lacking somewhat, and didn't leave us satisfied.

In their defence, the owners told us that a year ago, they'd taken over what was an ailing venue and were trying to turn things around. So the potential is there; let's hope things do improve. The pub, just off the M6 Junction 10 on the main stretch into

Parkbrook, Walsall

Walsall, is welcoming enough. The service is friendly too, with staff being welcoming upon arrival and finding you a spot to sit.

As there were only two or three other couples there, we were a little surprised when we were told there was a delay in the food. When our starters arrived, they seemed strangely at odds with the rest of the meal. Our main courses felt freshly made and unlike what you'd find elsewhere, but to pay almost £4 for three chicken goujons, served in barbecue dip and with a salad garnish, was slightly disappointing.

My friend didn't fare much better, opting for the deep fried garlic mushrooms, with a garlic dip and salad garnish. We both agreed we could have done both our starters ourselves at home. Things got better though. The main courses felt more of a

treat, mine in particular, the Barnsley lamb chop – a 10oz brace of two succulent lamb chops, served on a bed of mashed potato combined with spinach, a mint gravy and seasonal cabbage. Firstly, how grand was the mash? Soft and moreish, the stand-out item on the plate.

Flavour

It definitely made the meal for me, although the lamb was deliciously smothered in a mint gravy oozing flavour.

My pal picked the vegetable biryani – a traditional Mughlai main course of rice loaded with chopped vegetables, spices and saffron and served with chips.

He mostly enjoyed it. However, he found it a little dry and would have liked something extra to make it a little less stodgy. The wait between courses meant there was plenty of time for us to digest our mains,

making desserts a more attractive option. However, like the starters, they were disappointing.

I plumped for the lemon meringue – a slice of cake, layered with cream and meringue bits on a soft base. It was delicious and suitably sweet, packing enough of a tart lemony punch to round off the three courses nicely. But the accompanying ice cream lacked flavour.

My friend found his sticky toffee pudding too thick and rich and couldn't quite finish it. It was too dry and the accompanying ice cream was flavourless.

It was a strange end to an overall odd experience for us at The Parkbrook. For somewhere rated so highly on TripAdvisor, I expected a little better than the slow service and underwhelming food. It was not terrible, it just failed to hit the spot.

Leigh Sanders

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120 WENLOCK GARDENS, WALSALL



29-30 TEMPLE BAR, WILLENHALL



Improved and extended six-bed home is in popular cul-de-sac

THIS unique, much improved and extended six-bedroomed detached family home in Glen Close, Walsall lies in a sought after cul-de-sac location.

It is for sale through Redstones at £399,995.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a reception hall, an extended lounge, a sitting room, an extended L-shaped

WALSALL

£399,995

kitchen/diner, a guest WC, ground floor bedroom with an en-suite, five first floor bedrooms (master with en-suite including a double spa bath), a family shower room, front and rear gardens and off road parking for several vehicles.



K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION – 14TH MARCH 2017

593 STAFFORD ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Ready for modernisation - popular district - well located three bed Semi., Bathroom, Two Reception, Kitchen, Laundry, G.F. wc., Garage facility, long Rear Garden est. 100ft epc. TBA

Guide: £93,000 - £98,000

VIEWING:

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 17th & 18th FEBRUARY @ 9.45 a.m.

42 BIRCHES PARK ROAD, CODSALL

Large three bedroomed Home, two Reception, fitted Kitchen smart Bathroom, Gas C.H, Double Glazing, Garage, attractive Gardens. epc.C71

Guide: £144,000 - £149,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 17th & 18th FEBRUARY @ 10.45 a.m.

68 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well located Ground Floor Flat 14ft. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, smart Bathroom Garage, pleasant rear outlook. epc.E54

Guide: £48,000 - £53,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 17th & 18th FEBRUARY @ 11.45 a.m.

49 HIGHLAND ROAD, DUDLEY

Large Semi, Double Glazing, CH., Two Reception, extended Kitchen / Diner, fitted Cloakroom Three Bedrooms, En Suite + sep. Bathroom

Rear Garden. epc.E54

Guide: £84,000 - £89,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 17th & 18th FEBRUARY @ 10.00 a.m.

240 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD, LANESFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Elevated position, large Dormer Bungalow Porch, Lounge, big Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom 19ft. F.F. Bedroom, Store Room, Gas CH., DG. Gardens, 24ft. Garage. epc F39

Guide £115,000 - £120,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 17th & 18th FEBRUARY @ 11.00 a.m.

14 WALSALL ROAD, WILLENHALL

Ripe for improvement - close to Town Centre. Spacious End Terrace, Porch, Three Reception, Kitchen Two Double Bedrooms huge 16ft Bathroom!! Outside - WC, Store, lawned Garden. epc.TBA

Guide £49,000 plus

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 17th & 18th FEBRUARY @ 12.00 noon

168 - 169 STAFFORD STREET, WALSALL

Fronting Stafford Street (B4210), established shopping area.

Double fronted - approx. 28ft. - Retail Unit Kitchen (1st / 2nd floors not currently accessible) Rear Yard, Parking. epc C65

Guide: £85,000 - £95,000

VIEWING

MONDAY & TUESDAY, 20th & 21st FEBRUARY 11.30 a.m.

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

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15 The Rise, Great Barr
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: Sat 18 Feb 14:45 & Mon 20 Feb 11:00



17 Wilkinson Road, Moxley
3 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

View: Sat 18 Feb 12:30 & Mon 20 Feb 13:15



14 Elm Street, Chapel Ash
3 Bed Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

View: Sat 18 Feb 11:45 & Mon 20 Feb 14:00



1 St Martins Close, Parkfields
2 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

View: Sat 18 Feb 10:00 & Mon 20 Feb 15:45



34 Lindley Avenue, Tipton
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: Sat 18 Feb 14:00 & Mon 20 Feb 11:45



577 & 578 Parkfield Rd, Wolverhampton
Two Terraced Properties with Planning
Consent for 2 Bungalows to the Rear.
Guide: £99,000 plus

View: Sat 18 Feb 13:15 & Mon 20 Feb 12:30



167 New Hampton Road East, Wolverhampton
2 Bed Detached Bungalow
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

View: Sat 18 Feb 10:45 & Mon 20 Feb 15:00



32 Castle Road, Tipton
Detached Property, Converted
into Two Self-Contained Flats
Guide: £50,000 plus

View: Thurs 16 Feb 12:15 & Tues 21 Feb 14:00



15d Genge Avenue, Lanesfield
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £134,000 - £138,000

View: Thurs 16 Feb 10:00 & Tues 21 Feb 16:15



5 New Street, Tipton
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £48,000-£52,000

View: Thurs 16 Feb 13:00 & Tues 21 Feb 13:15



241 Coalway Road, Merryhill
2/3 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £48,000 - £53,000

View: Thurs 16 Feb 9:45 & Tues 21 Feb 16:15



79 Florence Rd, West Bromwich
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £168,000 - £173,000

View: Wed 15 Feb 10:00 & Mon 20 Feb 16:00



90 Wolverhampton St, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £19,00-£24,000

View: Wed 15 Feb 11:15 & Mon 20 Feb 14:45



15 Charnwood Close, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £60,000 plus

View: Wed 15 Feb 10:30 & Mon 20 Feb 15:30



46a & 46b Wolverhampton St, Wednesbury
A Detached Property Converted into
Two Flats with 2 Lock-Up Garages
Guide: £94,000 - £98,000

View: Wed 15 Feb 12:00 & Mon 20 Feb 14:00



7 Walsall Street, Wednesbury
Former Commercial Property with Planning
Permission to Change to Single Dwelling
Guide: £25,000 - £30,000

FURTHER VIEWINGS TIMES AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT US ON 0121 233 5046 FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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For the Energy Performance Rating of each property please refer to the legal pack, catalogue or website



Abingdon Way Walsall



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Crown Court Victoria Mews



Offers around £119,995

A well presented two bedroom modern semi detached family home, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely property further comprises, porch, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and allocated parking space. Energy rating D.

Segundo Road Walsall



Offers around £115,000

A modern two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for landlord as the property is currently tenanted till April 2017 with the tenant paying A£498pcm. The property further comprises, porch, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking for several vehicles. Energy rating D.

Tanacetum Drive Tamebridge, Walsall



Offers around £125,000

A superb two bedroom semi detached property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. Located in a sought after estate the property further comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, lounge with feature fireplace, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating D.

Glen Close Walsall



Offers around £399,995

A much improved, extended and unique six bedroom detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and quiet cul-de-sac location. This splendid family home further comprises, reception hall, extended lounge, sitting room, extended L-shaped kitchen/diner, guest W.C, ground floor bedroom with ensuite, 5 x first floor bedrooms (master with ensuite inc double spa bath) family shower room, front and rear gardens and off road parking for several vehicles. Energy rating C.

Lowe Avenue Darlaston



Offers around £110,000

A refurbished and improved three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for the first time buyer the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen/diner, study, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, tarmacadam off road parking and rear garden. Energy rating D.

All Saints Road Wednesbury



Offers around £110,000

A three bedroom extended middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, guest W.C, family bathroom, three bedrooms and rear garden. Energy rating E.

Park Hall Road Walsall



Offers around £480,000

A well presented five bedroom detached family home in the sought after Park Hall estate having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This splendid property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, dining room, guest W.C, fitted kitchen, breakfast room, 5 bedrooms, en-suite bathroom, family bathroom, rear garden, block paved driveway for several vehicles and garage. Energy Rating D.

Mehdi Road Oldbury



Offers around £95,000

A spacious two bedroom second floor modern apartment in a popular residential location. Suit landlord as the property is currently let at £485pcm. The accommodation comprises of an entrance hall, living/dining room with French doors to a Juliet balcony, two bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazed windows, electric central heating and allocated parking. Energy rating C.

Little Station Street Walsall



Offers around £64,995

A modern one bedroom apartment situated within the heart of Walsall opposite the train station & having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, central heating and currently let out at £399pcm. Ideal for an investor the accommodation further comprises, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, bathroom and double bedroom. Energy rating E.

Hall Street East Darlaston



Offers around £75,000

A well presented second floor two bedroom apartment in a popular residential location. The property comprises of reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazed windows, electric heating, no upward chain and allocated parking space. Energy rating C.

St. Peters Lane Bickenhill



Offers around £675,000

A superb three bedroom, detached bungalow set in a lovely rural location whilst having the benefit of triple glazing, gas central heating, air conditioning and no upward chain. This delightful and spacious property is conveniently located near to the M42 motorway, the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham International Airport and its train station. The property further comprises, good size L-shaped lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, utility room, reception hall, guest W.C, family bathroom, three double bedrooms, study, rear entrance lobby, impressive well maintained gardens, enclosed patio area, ample off road parking for several vehicles and double garage.●●INTERNAL VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO FULLY APPRECIATE WHAT THE PROPERTY HAS TOO OFFER.●●Awaiting energy rating.

197 Green Lane Leamore



Offers around £75,000

A modern first floor flat having the benefit of no upward chain, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for Landlord or first time buyer the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, family shower room, two bedroom, communal parking and gardens. Energy rating C.

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- Modern Starter Home
- Open-plan Lounge
- Guest WC
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Parking
- Viewing Recommended

\$124,950

NEW

BLOXWICH
MAY STREET




- Family Home
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- No Chain

\$114,950

WALSALL
GILLITY CLOSE






- Dorma Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hallway
- large Family Lounge
- Seven Bedrooms
- Bathroom and Shower Room
- Sitting Room
- Kitchen/diner, Utility
- En-suite and shower room
- Gardens
- Double Garage

\$550,000

RUSHALL
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- First Floor Apartment
- Secure Entry System
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Communal Garden

\$70,000

NEW

BLOXWICH
STONEY LANE






- Impressive Bungalow
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen Family Room
- 4/5 Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- NO CHAIN

\$355,000

NEW

BLOXWICH
WETHERBY ROAD




- Sought After Cul De Sac
- Semi Detached
- Through Hallway
- Lounge/diner
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway

\$139,950

ESSINGTON
UPPER SNEYD ROAD






- Detached Family Home
- Porch, Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Driveway, Garage
- Viewing Essential

Offers Over \$220,000

WALSALL
BENTLEY DRIVE




- Spacious Semi Property
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Enclosed Rear Garden

\$120,000

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BLOXWICH
SNEYD LANE



- Auction Price
- Investment Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, WC
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- 3 Bedrooms
- Rear Garden

Guide Price \$60,000

WALSALL
WEBSTER ROAD



- 3 Bed Semi
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- NO CHAIN

\$100,000

WALSALL
SELBY WAY



SSTC
Similar Required

- 3REE BEDROOMS
- ●● REFITTED KITCHEN AND SPACIOUS UTILITY
- ROOM ●● OFF ROAD PARKING ●● CLOSE TO SHOPS AND RAIL

\$105,000

WALSALL
BENTLEY LANE



SSTC
Similar Required

- Spacious Semi Detached
- Porch, Hall
- Utility, WC
- 3 Reception Rooms
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden

\$150,000

RUSHALL
ROUGH BROOK ROAD



SSTC
Similar Required

- Entrance hall,
- Kitchen,
- Lounge,
- Guest WC,
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom.
- Driveway
- Enclosed Garden

\$129,950

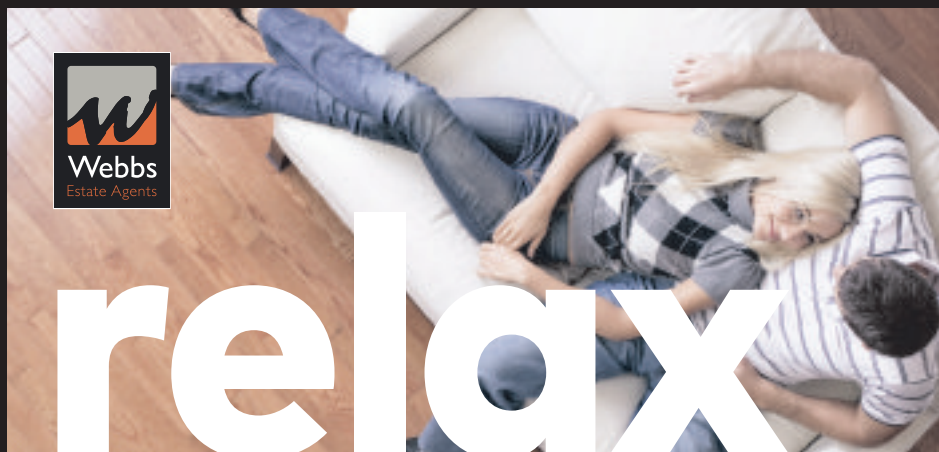
ALDRIDGE
BERRYFIELDS



SSTC
Similar Required

- Mid Town House
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Parking

\$135,000



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WALSALL
EAGLEWORKS



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- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Viewing

\$44,950 40% Shared

WILLENHALL
EDGEWORTH CLOSE



SSTC
Similar Required

- Extended 3 Bed
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- Shower Room
- Garden
- Driveway

\$150,000 Offers Over

WILLENHALL
BAYNTON ROAD



SSTC
Similar Required

- 3 Bed Semi
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Viewing
- Recommended

\$130,000 Offers Over

WALSALL
MILTON STREET



SSTC
Similar Required

- Mid Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- In Need of Refurb
- Deceptively Spacious

\$85,000 Cash Buyers Only

BLOXWICH
HARDEN ROAD



SSTC
Similar Required

- Traditional Semi
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Ground Floor
- Wet Room
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage

\$149,950

BLOXWICH
CLOCKMILL PLACE



SSTC
Similar Required

- Town House
- Hallway,
- Lounge,
- Dining Room,
- Kitchen,
- Utility / Garden Room,
- Three Bedrooms

Offers Over \$100,000

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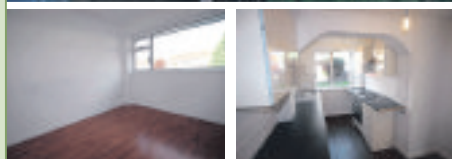
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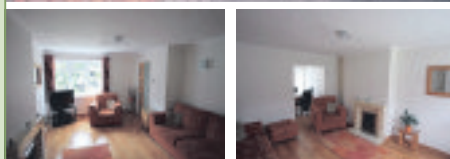
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Birch Coppice Gardens, Willenhall

- Four Bedroom Semi Detached
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Garage & Off Road Parking
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating: 58

Monthly Rental Of £750.00 PCM



Cheniston Road, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Separate Utility
- Family Bathroom
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating : 72

Monthly Rental Of £625.00 PCM



Broadway, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build
- Communal Hallway with Lift
- Lounge with Balcony
- Fitted Kitchen
- Rating: 88

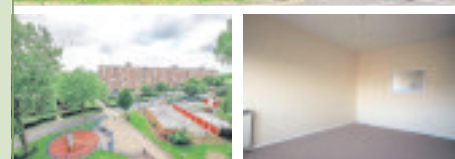
£595.00 PCM



Broadway, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build
- Communal Hallway with Lift
- Kitchen/Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Rating: 88

£595.00 PCM



Regent House, Walsall,

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Close to Walsall Town Centre
- Communal parking
- Secure intercom access
- Lift to all floor
- Two double bedrooms
- Lounge with balcony
- Breakfast kitchen and modern bathroom
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating : 58

Monthly Rental of £ 450.00 PCM



Revival Street, Bloxwich,

- Two Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Bloxwich High Street
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating : TBC

Monthly Rental Of £450.00 PCM



Cresswell Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Large Lounge
- Large Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- DHSS Accepted
- Electric Heating
- Rating: 54

Monthly Rental Of £450.00 PCM



Manorhouse Close, Walsall

- Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Fitted Wardrobes
- Rating: 71

£450.00 PCM



Manor House Close, Walsall,

- One Bedroom
- Secure Intercom Acces
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Kitchen
- Lounge with patio doors
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers.
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating: 80

Monthly Rental of 450.00 PCM



Taverners Close ,Willenhall

- One Bedroom
- Ground Floor Maisonette
- Entrance
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Front Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating : 75

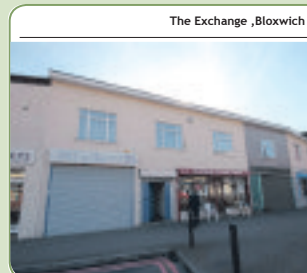
Monthly Rental of £425.00 PCM



Marton Court, High Street,

- Two Bedroom 2nd Floor Apartment
- Bloxwich High Street
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating: 68

£430.00 PCM



The Exchange ,Bloxwich

- One bedroom
- Entrance Hallway
- Large Separate Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- Electric Heating
- Bathroom with Shower
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating : 7

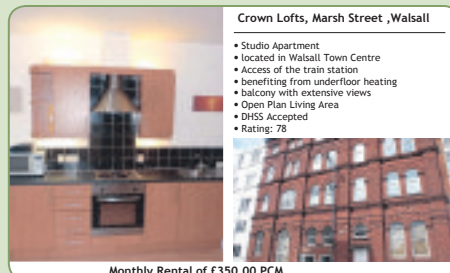
Monthly Rental Of £400.00 PCM



Harrison Street, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating: 33

£400.00 PCM



Crown Lofts, Marsh Street ,Walsall

- Studio Apartment
- located in Walsall Town Centre
- Access of the train station
- benefitting from underfloor heating
- balcony with extensive views
- Open Plan Living Area
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating: 78

Monthly Rental of £350.00 PCM



Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Ground Floor
- One Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Close to Bloxwich High Street
- DHSS Accepted
- Rating: 56

Monthly Rental Of £325.00 PCM

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Great car for running around town

By Anthony Martyn

Introduced back in 2014, the 108 is Peugeot's attempt at cashing in on the lucrative city car market, and the 108 Top! is the convertible iteration of this car.

Created off the back of a joint-venture between PSA (Peugeot and Citroën's parent company) and Toyota, the 108 shares pretty much everything with the Citroën C1 and Toyota Aygo. This includes the platform, engines, running gear, as well as their electrical system.

Because of this, they are all practically identical. You'd be forgiven for stepping out of the C1 into the 108 and thinking you were still in the same car. However, while these cars are all relatively similar both mechanically and in the cabin, the sharing of parts means that production costs are kept down.

Ultimately this means that you save money when the time to buy comes around.

You'd be hard-pressed to label the little 108 an unattractive car. Next to the C1 and the Aygo, the 108 certainly looks the most grown-up – although you shouldn't let that trick you into thinking it comes across as boring.

Our test car came in a bright French Blue colour, which certainly made it one of the more eye-catching cars on the road. Couple that with the contrasting black paint on the boot, and the 108 really looks the part.

The fact that the canvas roof car be mechanically retracted to open up an unlimited amount of headroom only serves to add to this city runabout's desirability.

As a means for pottering around town, the 108 makes a fairly good case for itself. It's comfortable, easy to see out of and thanks



A neat and attractive rear end



You get a fair amount of kit as standard

to its pint-sized proportions, a breeze to manoeuvre through tight spaces.

In its natural urban environment, the only things that took a bit of getting used to were the incredibly short clutch, and rather noisy three-cylinder engine. If you choose to open up the canvas roof, you'll also be treated to a fair deal of wind noise – but this is part in parcel of owning a convertible.

Head out on the motorway, and you

immediately get a sense the car is no longer in its comfort zone. Engine, wind and road noise are all far more noticeable, and the car's small size becomes much more obvious. That said though, it never felt too nervous or skittish at cruising speeds, although you may find you're fairly worn out by the time you reach your destination.

Buy a 108 Top! in the same specification as our test car – that's the Allure 1.2 – and you'll

You'd be hard-pressed to label the little 108 an unattractive car

set yourself back £12,760. For this, you get a fair amount of kit as standard, including a reversing camera, DAB radio, Bluetooth connectivity and a seven-inch touchscreen infotainment system. All up, this isn't all that bad a deal, the only thing that would make it more appealing is sat-nav – although Peugeot can fit this as a £400 option.

In terms of fuel economy, Peugeot claims the 108 can achieve a combined fuel

consumption figure of 65.7mpg, meaning you shouldn't find you spend too much time (or money) at the pump. Thanks to CO2 emissions of 99g/km, the 108 is also exempt from tax under current legislation, although this is changing from April 2017.

The 108 Top! will likely appeal most to either first time buyers, or family buyers looking to add a second, smaller car to their fleet for running around town.

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D-Max has been extensively overhauled

Isuzu opens orders for the new D-Max

The new generation D-Max arrives in the UK this spring, and customers can now register their interest in the new truck.

D-Max has been extensively overhauled with the biggest changes under the bonnet. A brand new 1.9 litre turbo diesel engine has been fitted, which produces 164 PS and 360Nm of torque.

The engine builds upon D-Max's workhorse character and retains the 3.5 tonne towing capacity and 1 tonne payload whilst providing a quieter, more refined and economical driving experience. Another key benefit is that the new engine meets Euro 6 standards without the need for addition of AdBlue.

As per previous D-Max models, Shift-On-The-Fly 4x4 is a key feature of the 17MY truck. The rotary dial allows the driver to select four-wheel drive on the move as well as low range gears.

Finally, the D-Max comes with a five-year / 125,000-mile warranty, and was the first pick-up in the UK to be offered with such a comprehensive peace-of-mind package.

Revealed — all-new Insignia Sports Tourer



More luggage capacity in new tourer

Vauxhall has released the first images of the all-new Insignia Sports Tourer, which will receive its world premiere at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show next month.

Following on from the previous generation, which won the European Car of the Year in 2009, the Insignia Sports Tourer is based on a completely new vehicle architecture. Its revised proportions result in more luggage capacity that has increased to 1,640 litres, over 100 litres, more than the outgoing model. The length of the boot has grown by 97mm to 2005mm versus the previous model and 40/20/40 foldable seats are available, making it even more practical.

There is a raft of top technologies that make driving the car safer, more relaxing and more comfortable than before. Next generation IntelliLux LED matrix lighting, Lane Keep Assist, Head-up Display and unique AGR-certified premium seats, front- and rear-seat heating and a heated windscreen are just some examples.

Outstanding infotainment and connectivity are also on board thanks to the latest generation IntelliLink systems and Vauxhall OnStar, which with the launch of the Insignia Sports Tourer, will offer even more functionality for customers. It is also the first Vauxhall with an active aluminium bonnet, improving pedestrian protection considerably.

Coming soon: Six of the most eagerly-anticipated cars of 2017

By Jack Evans

There's plenty of new metal set to arrive in 2017, so we've taken a look at the six models we're most looking forward to.

After 2016 served up a veritable feast of stellar new cars, from the Ford Focus RS to the staggering Audi R8, 2017 has a tough act to follow.

With a plethora of new metal in the pipeline, though, 2017 seems likely to be every bit as good as the 12 months preceding it. We've shortlisted six of the cars we expect to be stars of 2017.

● Mazda MX-5 RF

The fourth-generation Mazda MX-5 went down a storm when it was released back in 2015, offering sporty driving dynamics and a naturally aspirated haven for automotive purists. New for 2017, the folding hard-top RF version looks set to be just as appealing.

It may well be heavier than its soft-top counterpart, but its look-at-me roof and Ferrari-esque flying buttresses make it a stunning thing to behold. It's bound to turn heads when it arrives in the spring, and it might be a stronger all-rounder than its rag-top sibling.

● Honda Civic Type R

Hot on the heels of the new Civic will be the new Type R. If the way the latest version flew out of showrooms is anything to go by, Honda may well be struggling to keep up with demand.

Outlandish wheel arches, an enormous spoiler and a deep diffuser are all almost certain to feature, along with a free-revving 2.0-litre turbocharged engine and some body-hugging bucket seats, all of which should keep the youths of Essex very happy.

● Mercedes-Benz E-Class Coupe

Mercedes seems to be on a bit of a roll with its luxury coupes. We've already seen the S-Class and C-Class Coupes triumph as comfortable, good-looking yet fun-to-drive cars, and the E-Class ought to continue on this theme.

The outgoing E-Class Coupe was a smartly designed beast, and the new one is set to be just as pretty. Add into the mix that the new Coupe will benefit from the standard E-Class' interior, and you might just have a package that's tricky to beat. It's one to watch.

● Land Rover Discovery 5

It's a big deal when a new Discovery comes along. The previous-generation car came out in 2009, and since then it's gone on to be an immensely popular car for Land Rover. The new one aims to offer better levels of technology – but it needs to retain that classic Land Rover go-anywhere spirit if it's going to hold on to traditional customers.

The styling definitely takes cues from the popular Discovery Sport, but it needs to be a good car in its own right if it's going to succeed.

● Ford Fiesta

As the bestselling car in the UK, a new version of the Ford Fiesta is always going to be an incredibly important car. The new Fiesta will hit our roads in time for the September plate change, and is expected to sell like hot cakes.

Ford has given the latest Fiesta a rather more grown-up appearance – while it is still a handsome car, we can't help but think it's lost some of the funky charm that was so abundant with the outgoing model.

Word on the street is we will also be treated to a new go-faster ST version of the Fiesta at some point. If it's anything like the current one, that is going to be a cracking little car. Watch this space.

● Alfa Romeo Stelvio QV

The Stelvio will be Alfa Romeo's first-ever attempt at an SUV, and what better way to barge your way into an incredibly competitive market than with an SUV that is powered by a Ferrari-derived V6?

The flagship Stelvio Quadrifoglio promises to be something of a monster – especially if the numbers are anything to go by: 503bhp, 0-60 in 3.7 seconds and a top speed of 177mph sounds nothing short of electric.

Of course, the Stelvio will also be available in slightly more sober configurations. A 276bhp, 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol variant is in the works, and a diesel is also highly likely to be on the cards.



Land Rover Discovery 5 offers better levels of technology than the 4



Honda Civic Type R has outlandish wheel arches and an enormous spoiler



The fourth generation MX-5 set hearts aflutter and now it comes as a folding hard-top



The Stelvio is Alfa's first attempt at an SUV



Mercedes-Benz E-Class Coupe a class act



Ford's latest Fiesta is more grown up

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glass lid on hob, excellent condition,
£100 ono. 07929 188564.

in your garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: **01922 720270**
We also supply sleepers and decking

6x5 Lap Panels

£16 each (inc vat)

WS3 2BQ

Bloxhams Fencing Ltd

Freephone 0500 506041

or 01922 712184

AT SHEDRITE Potting sheds, log

cabins, summerhouses etc. Willen-

hall Rd WV1 2HA 01902 450137.

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN

FACED on only £1.76 inc. VAT.

Ranton Building Supplies:

01543 276006.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement
today? We would respectfully
remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies
on the first day of publication.

ASH RECLAMATION new and
used building materials, upvc doors
and windows 01543 453222.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE

CASH PAID TODAY

No amount is too small

A GENUINE LADY BUYER

All Jewellery • Old coins

• Watches • Costume Jewellery

• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings

• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items

Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc

ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING

01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED TO carefully
consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

WANTED FOR CASH three piece
suits, up to £100 paid
Call 01785 815925/ 07947 627142.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS



Certified technician &
Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops
and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken
screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST

Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc.
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.
Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS



"TV Link are really
pleased with their
response from
their Classified
Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business
results call

01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by Express & Star

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated
and microchipped.

Call 01922 412212 or

www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

RGT Wolverhampton

@RGTWolves

Local Specialists



Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of
local businesses and tradesman to deal with your
needs and requirements.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

vets
Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities
READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

plant, machinery & tools

WHY USE SCAFFOLDING?
When a Niftylift 120t will do the job!

from **£50** - VAT per day!*

Suitable for Trade & DIY
Hire . Sales . Training . Service
www.facelift.co.uk
*minimum one week hire

call us on **0121 313 07 77**

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation

NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios from £90pw*
Rooms from £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

overseas property

FOR SALE IN ALICANTE SPAIN
Four bed Villa.
Sleeps 11, kitchen, lounge and dining area, 3 bathrooms.
Fully furnished.
Large swimming pool.
Garage including car and private gated.
Plot in excess of 2000sqm.
Offers around £190,000 ono.
07711 058123.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6
or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW
FOR YOUR HOUSE

- Legal Fees Paid
- No Fees
- Any Condition
- Guaranteed Offer
- Repossessions Stopped
- We can buy your home in 2 days

0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
01922 311 030
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

JS PROPERTIES
Properties & Land brought for cash

- Repossessions Stopped
- Free Solicitors
- Completion date to suit
- Deceased Estates
- Rent back Option

Any property Any area
Call Mr J Moore
07870 120363

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

7 Jobs

DO YOU HAVE THE DRIVE TO IMPROVE YOUNG PEOPLES' LIVES?
SCHOOL STAFF INSTRUCTOR FOR COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF) RAF UNIT

Barr Beacon School
To help develop our Combined Cadet Force RAF contingent.
Full Time - Good rate of pay
ARMED FORCES EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
Visit www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk to download details and an application form and send it to LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk
Closing date: 27th February 2017
Interview Date: 13th March 2017
Start date: 24th April 2017

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Barr Beacon School
We are seeking Learning Support Assistants
37 hours per week
£14,000 Full Time £11,676 Term Time only.
Applications close 24th February
Apply online at www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk
For more info contact:
LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

CATERING ASSISTANT

Barr Beacon School
Barr Beacon School is seeking to appoint a dynamic, friendly catering assistant to support our kitchen over busy lunch services
Term Time Only, Monday-Friday
Part Time (hours negotiable)
Visit www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk to download details and an application form and send it to LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk
Closing date 27th February 2017
Barr Beacon School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

ASSISTANT CHEF

Bloxwich Academy
Bloxwich Academy is seeking to appoint a skilled dynamic Assistant Chef to work 37 hours per week in a busy, demanding but rewarding role.
Term Time only, Monday-Friday
Salary - £16,057
Visit www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk to download details and an application form and send it to LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk
Closing date: 27th February 2017
Bloxwich Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

1000s OF JOBS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS
Register your CV today, visit:

jobs.expressandstar.com

WE CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR PERFECT JOB!

- CV UPLOAD
- JOB ALERTS
- CV MATCHING

electricians

ELECTRICIANS wanted must have BS2991 qualifications or equivalent. Self employed, good rates of pay, immediate start. 01922 412121 CV to: info@duolectrical.co.uk

full time - general

APPRENTICE SADDLE MAKERS & Apprentice Sewing Machinists required. Walsall. Call Ian on 07740 876800 / ian@fairfaxsaddles.com

OPEN DAY
FRIDAY, February 17 and SATURDAY February 18
10am till 5pm
at
THE VILLAGE HOTEL
Tempus Drive, Walsall WS2 8TJ
01902 317878
HOME CARERS REQUIRED
No experience required - pre-start training given
MUST BE CAR DRIVER
Contracted hours available
Applications and interviews available on the day
£7.20 - £8.80 per hour
BROWN HILLS / ALDRIDGE AREA
Quantum Home Care Service
07914 596889

EXPERIENCED SADDLE MACHINIST REQUIRED WALSALL AREA
16 hours per week
Call 01922 659080
or
email: mary@countysaddlery.com

LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER??

APPRENTICE SADDLE MAKERS & APPRENTICE SEWING MACHINISTS
required Walsall area
For further details
Call Ian on 07740 876800 or email: ian@fairfaxsaddles.com

CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST
We are looking for an experienced receptionist for our busy clinic to answer telephone, deal with queries and manage our patients. 16 hours a week. Must be flexible to work weekends and cover others. Walsall area.
CV to Kim Swain on info@walsallchiropracticclinic.co.uk

courses

BIRMINGHAM: 21-22 JUNE
WOLVERHAMPTON: 15-16 JULY

Accredited **ocn** Credit Learning

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
More info or to book: www.geospace.com
HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY JOBSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

Be the first to see the latest jobs from the region's biggest and best employers.

Only in your Express & Star

Express & Star

jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

Classified Ads

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

4X4
NISSAN NAVARA 2.5DCI

Black, 4 x 4, 52 plate, MoT August, 124,000 miles, full black leather, 4 new tyres, possible PX.

£2,600

07902 098777.



SUBARU IMPREZA

2000W, turbo, 38,530 miles, red mica, electric mirrors, fish alarm, long MoT, one owner, CD.

£7,995 ono.

01384 377209.

**SELLING
YOUR CAR?**

We have a package to suit every budget.

Packages start from as little as

£21.00 for 6 nights

Plus

6 nights free if you do not sell.

**CALL
01902 317878**

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

MUST BE SEEN
FORD ESCORT FLIGHT

1600cc, White, W reg, same family for 12 years.

All breaks over hauled in 2016, sun roof and lots of bills and history, short MoT till May 2017.

New Invention area.

£550.

07887 765905.

BARGAIN
FORD KA

2002, 3dr 1.3CC, 6 months MoT, very clean and tidy, PAS, CD player, driven daily.

£380 ono

07722 921378.

BARGAIN
KIA RIO

5 door, 2002.

MoT till end of February.

Good tidy car.

£350 ono.

07775 626258.

LOW MILEAGE
PEUGEOT 206 VERVE
SW 1.4 ESTATE

2006 reg, red, only 59k, alloys, sunroof, air con.

12 months MoT.

Stunning condition.

Only £1,395.

Telephone 07399 675758.

BARGAIN
TOYOTA AVENSIS ESTATE

2004. 1800cc, petrol.

Burgundy.

MoT May 2017.

Good condition.

£750 for quick sale.

01922 325249.

07970 659226.

MUST BE SEEN
VW GOLF GT TDI

V reg.

Leather Interior.

MoT.

Good all round condition.

£700.

07765 223859.

**commercial
vehicles**

CITROEN BERLINGO Van, 57 reg, 87k, 1.6 HDi LX, side sliding doors, 8 months MoT, Excellent condition, £895, 07432 010478.

motorbikes

NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
CBT to full licence. Call 8am - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

vehicles wanted

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

vehicle hire

W.T.R. VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

vehicle hire

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

DOROTHY CLARA STANLEY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 13 Lucknow Road, Willenhall, West Midlands WV12 4QB, who died on 09/07/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 25/04/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Edwin Coe LLP, 2 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TH. Ref: BOS.STA.160.1

DOES ANYONE KNOW
the whereabouts of Patricia who catches the 529 bus to Walsall Food Bank, she did volunteer work there. Please contact David. **Box Number C20707, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.**

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 10 TO 7) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited intends to make an Order on the M6 Motorway in the Metropolitan Boroughs of Sandwell and Walsall, to allow message sign renewal works to be carried out.

The effect of the order will be to close -

(a) the southbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 10, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 8;

(b) the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 10;

(c) the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 9; and

The work will be carried out over one night between 22:00 hours and 05:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 6 March 2017. The Order will come into force on 3 March 2017.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade, ambulance, winter maintenance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures.

A diversion route via the A454, the A4148, and the A34 will be signed.

For further information please contact Paul Siddall on 0300 470 3538.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 10G. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

17/0141 Mr S. Nar FOR: SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION (AMENDMENT TO 16/1217 TO HAVE A FLAT ROOF WITH A LANTERN ROOF LIGHT), AT 6, THREE CROWNS CLOSE, WALSALL, WS5 3AL

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10 Personals

personal

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cos nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTW male for mutual companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with kind 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425867

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun. Any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box No: 409715

DAWN 33yr old female looking for companionship with understanding, non-jealous male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425849

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any age, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 515 3019 Box No: 413399

KAREN, 52, 5ft5, short brownie/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSOH, loving, caring and kind, likes to do lots of things, likes a laugh, WLTW similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

ANETTA, black cuddly lady seeks man who knows what a woman needs. I'm very friendly and have time for you. Please call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425933

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 408291

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425931

TAMIKKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

GILLY, slim petite lady, affectionate and loving, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425929

CARLY, 34yrs, attractive and discreet military wife seeks no strings fun with respectable gent. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424419

MERRY widow seeks lovely lonely gent for companionship. Please call, we can have a chat and see how we get on. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425927

ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, likes the simple things in life so no big gestures required, seeking lovely loving male for hopeful LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425253

SARAH, 41, dizzy blonde, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks affectionate, hunky, fun male to make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425413

YOUNG looking Indian female, 40, enjoys meeting kind, good company and conversation, looking for likeminded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425493

VIKKI 32yr old active female, confident, fit, loves night outs, looking for similar assertive male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425453

SUE, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call text ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424673

ROZ, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar sensual male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425935

LADY, looking for a mature, caring, loving gentleman, 55-70, to enjoy the finer things of life with and to be my best friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425309

MALE, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just wants to be loved again. Text only. Mailbox: 5750819

No sign of slowing as Peter homes in on 85th



Holmes is made an MBE by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace



Holmes with Wolverhampton Swimming Club chairman Peter Dale

WITH his 85th birthday on the horizon you would think Peter Holmes would be happy to sit back and reflect on a life of achievement.

But no. He is on a mission to highlight all that is good about sport in Wolverhampton and more importantly to urge people, young and old, to get active.

Born and bred in Wolverhampton, Holmes has dedicated his life to sport through his work for the city council and is a well known and hugely respected figure in the West Midlands and beyond.

He celebrated 70 years with Wolverhampton Swimming Club last year and has clocked up more than 60 years as a member of Penn Golf Club.

He has served the Staffordshire Swimming Association for 56 years, worked for Sport England, been president of the West Midlands ASA and is still involved with the governing body of swimming.

In addition, he was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the annual Wolverhampton Sports Council Advisory awards – where the borough's unsung grassroots heroes are honoured.

Honoured

Having also represented Great Britain at water polo, his contribution to sport has been honoured with an MBE.

Another one of Holmes's ventures has been the creation of a Wolverhampton Sporting Hall of Fame with an honours board on display at Aldersley Stadium.

His knowledge of Wolverhampton sports stars is astounding. In fact, Holmes has written the citations for each and every member of the Hall of Fame.

"I have always loved sport," he said, from his home just a few furlongs away from Wolverhampton racecourse. "Swimming, tennis, golf... most sports. I am a firm believer that we can motivate not only youngsters but some of the older population to get involved in sport.

"There are a number of governing bodies that encourage the older generation to compete – golf, tennis and hockey have masters events where people are competing at the age of 60 and above. That's brilliant. "We should never forget, sport is fun."

Holmes has certainly had his fair share of involve-

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

"We can motivate not only youngsters but some of the older population to get involved in sport."

ment, starting at the age of 16 with a trip across war-torn Europe to play water polo for GB.

"I went on tour with Great Britain in 1948," he recalls. "We played Holland, France and Belgium.

"We had a lecture from the Home Office on travelling. We went across by ferry. It was quite amazing.

"The war had just finished and we went to Arnhem when we played Holland. When we walked across the Nijmegen bridge all the buildings in the main street were still bullet-scarred.

"We went to the cemetery and that was awe-inspiring. We witnessed something that we didn't appreciate but it stuck in my mind. I was 16."

He also enjoyed his 15 minutes of fame on national TV. "In the early days of water polo there was the no moving rule and we played two halves," he said. "Then in 1950 they brought in what was known as the South American rules, where you could move all over and water polo was played in four quarters.

"I played in the first televised event of that, which, would you believe took place at Thimblemill Lane in Smethwick. It was demonstration game, two select sides by invitation and it was on BBC."

After ending his water polo-playing days in his late 20s, Holmes channelled his efforts into promoting sport through his job with the sports council and before that the central council of physical recreation at Wolverhampton Council.

Along with director of education Dennis Grayson and a PE adviser named Trevor Churchhill, Holmes saw a number of satellite sports centres built in the area which gave youngsters the chance to sample various recreational activities. "Compton Park was the

first one in 1971, the second one to open was Colton Hills, then Aldersley School was built, then Northcote," he recalls. "On a Sunday everything was closed, there were no swimming pools open after 11am.

"Compton Park was the first swimming pool to open all day on a Sunday. That was quite amazing and we were surprised at how the public used it."

Holmes was also a driving force behind the Black Country Games, a concept that saw youngsters from across the region compete in a host of sports, with the Fair Play Award named in his honour.

"The Games was one of the great sporting events of the year and involved between two and three thousand children," added Holmes. "It gave youngsters the opportunity of representation. They were able to represent their town or city."

Hosting a sports day with Sir Bobby Charlton and helping former Prime Minister John Major with a query surrounding his father – "he played water polo for Walsall and I was able to give him some information about when he played, and he very kindly sent me a thank you letter," recalled Holmes – are two other highlights from a bank of wonderful memories.

Magnificent

And then there was that day at Buckingham Palace, accompanied by his wife of 60 years Margaret, his son Phillip and daughter Michaela, when he was presented with his MBE by Prince Charles.

"That was a magnificent day," he says proudly, adding: "Did you know they had a swimming pool at The Palace?"

Holmes is now currently putting the final touches to the shortlist for this year's Hall of Fame inductees. But he is just as keen to see the grassroots heroes step into the spotlight – hence the birth of the Sports Council Advisory awards. "My aim is to make sure these people are recognised," he said "For years they had not been recognised but without all the wonderful people at grassroots level we wouldn't have people excelling on the international stage."

So with the latest set of citations under way, is there any sign of winding down?

"When am I going to stop? I suppose when I pop my clogs," he jokes. "I have a lot of knowledge about the history of sport in the city and I am so grateful for that, and I hope to pass it on."



Peter Holmes pores over the sporting hall of fame at Aldersley Village in Wolverhampton



Peter Holmes with a certificate to mark 60 years of service to sport in the city

New darts teams invited to the oche

THE secretary of a popular darts league is inviting more teams to the oche next season.

Games in the Sedgley and Gornal Darts League are played on Tuesday nights under a unique format that sets the competition apart from other leagues. Matches consist of six singles games from 301, start and finish with a double, and three doubles clashes that are 701 down, finish on a double.

Carey welcomed two new sides to the fold this season and already has one ready to join for the next campaign.

"We are always looking for new teams to participate," said Carey. "We have one new team already signed up for next year.

"The league has Sedgley and Gornal in the title because we were a break-away league when we started five years ago."

League action his campaign ends in April with a presentation night to follow in May.

Dudley-based table-toppers Foundry are looking to seal a league and cup double having won the end of year team knockout.

Anyone interested in entering a team in the league should contact secretary Rob Carey on 07881 453285.

Adrenaline fuelled as trio claim black belts

A KICKBOXER has used her adrenaline to maintain her unbeaten fight record on her way to competing for an English title.

Keri Webster, of Adrenaline gym in Brownhills, defeated previously unbeaten Rowena Bolt in Belfast to take her winning streak to five.

On the same card, Hayley Boot, aged 30, secured a draw against Charlene Best after previously beating her on home soil last September.

Webster, aged 25, holds an area title and is fighting in France this weekend. She will vie for an English title at Hammerwich Cricket Club in March.

Meanwhile, brother and sister members Grace, 17, and 11-year-old Oliver Partridge are celebrating after passing a tough martial arts grading. The Norton Canes siblings were joined by Kayleigh Goodwin, 12, of Chase Terrace, in earning their belt in full contact kickboxing.

All three each brought back a five nations title belt from full contact kickboxing in France in October and they are now ready to head out there again on Saturday along with others from the club.

The three hold various titles between them, and will be fighting again in March at Hammerwich Cricket Club. Oliver will take on his second English title. For tickets, call head coach Chris Bladon on 07976 371681.

Swan take flight to reach cup last four

KINGSWINFORD Swan hit the comeback trail to book their place in the semi-finals of the Dudley Guest Hospital Charity Cup.

Swan had trailed 2-0 early in the first half to Prince Albert but rallied to clinch a hard-fought 4-3 win with Liam Hickman bagging the winner in the last 10 minutes – his second of the game. Luke Williams and Ash Barker were also on target.

Chris Holland (2) and Chris Griffiths were on target for Prince Albert. Dudley Sports and Woodside enjoyed far more comfortable passages into the last four.

Dudley Sports were 6-2 winners at Pure Sports Foundation thanks to two goals from Luke Williams and singles from Jack Hickman, Grant Esp, Ryan Hickman and Ashley Pountney.

Josh Garbett and Dean Billingham found the net for Foundation. Woodside cruised to an 8-0 triumph at home to Roebuck.

The clash between Wordsley AFC and Wordsley Reserves was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

The semi-final draw was taking place on Tuesday of this week, with the ties scheduled for April 2.



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Trying hard Burntwood go past 500

Eccleshall 14 Burntwood 38
BURNWOOD went past 500 points for the season with a bonus point win away to Eccleshall.

Burntwood had the better of the first half to lead 19-0 before Eccleshall hit back with two converted tries in the third quarter. However, the visitors pulled clear with three tries in the last quarter to seal the win.

Burntwood had the ideal start to open the scoring after just two minutes. Rob Jones fielded a clearance kick on half-way to begin a counter attack and Adam Black eventually forced his way over for a try converted by Aza Dunet.

With all the play in home territory the second score was not long in coming. The forwards featured again with Luke Rookyard going close before Josh Canning stretched over the line to touch down. Dunet added the extras for 14-0.

The second period opened with determined play by the hosts and after several drives for the line they finally got over by the posts for a converted try after 47 minutes.

With 68 minutes gone Ben Holt found a good touch near the left corner from a penalty award. The line out was won and the catch and drive ended with L. Rookyard scoring his side's fourth try. A. Dunet's conversion attempt went in off the post for 26-14.

The result was effectively decided within two minutes of the restart. Holt's deep kick saw Holden up quickly to tackle the man in possession to knock the ball free. The winger was on his feet first to gain possession and run to the line for the try.

This Saturday Burntwood host Edwarians for a league match - kick off 2.15 pm. The 2nds and 3rds are also due to be in action against Newport 3rds (A) and Stafford 3rds (H).

New recruits are sought as club's youth teams grow

RUSHALL Olympic's youth development section is going from strength-to-strength and is set to grow even further.

Bosses are looking to add teams at under-9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 levels for the 2017/18 season and want to get new players and coaches on board.

Qualified coaches, of at least Level 1, wishing to take up a position with the Charter Standard club is asked to get in touch with youth secretary Jason Chapman on 07540 800531 or committee officer Shaun Fallon on 07966 239639. An FA DBS check will be required.

The teams will play on Saturday mornings at Aston University, Walsall and also use the all-weather surfaces for winter training. The club has its own facility in Rushall for summer training.

In preparation for the step-up to nine-a-side games, the u-10s will be opening up their training nights to increase the squad. Contact the club via rofcddevelopmentsec@yahoo.com.

New recruits, with MJPL/JPL experience, or previously with a professional academy, are being sought for the u-15s. Call Clive East on 07853 159019.

Hero Luke returns to home paddock

LIFE after Priory Park Boxing Club begins with a fight date at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday March 4 for hometown hero Luke Paddock and Ricky Summers.

The pro section at Priory Park has been dissolved going into the new year as the gym focuses on its amateurs.

That left Paddock, from Bloxwich, and Tipton's Summers without a corner. Summers has signed a management deal with Errol Johnson, with Paddock on his own turf topping the No Guts, No Glory bill in an eight-rounder.

The former Midlands super lightweight champion, aged 25, is chasing a rematch with nemesis

Boxing

Andy Keates, who has twice failed in steps up to the English title, for those area honours.

Summers was knocking on the door of national honours at light heavyweight at the start of last year, but a stop-start 2016 halted his progress. The 29-year-old has now taken ex-pro Richard Ghent as his main coach and will train out of Ghent's RG Box Fit base in Bilston.

Also on the card are the undefeated Tom Stokes, from West Bromwich, Manny 'Pac Man' Zaber, of Old Hill and Wolverhampton's Kyle

Williams, 24. Johnson also bloods two new debutants, Lauren Johnson, also from Wolverhampton and West Bromwich's Dwain Grant.

Now 32, 'the Black Widow' is coming into the pro game as a middleweight after learning her craft at the Wodensborough and Walsall Wood clubs. Grant, meanwhile, nicknamed 'Cheeky', could be a surprise package, coming from the unlicensed circuit.

The card is completed by heavyweight Dilly Singh, a prospect from Coventry with two points wins to his credit, and Brummie bantamweight Ijaz Ahmed. Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside on 0845 111 2900.

Well-fought contest led to mudbath

Leek 21 Walsall 13

THIS proved to be a well-contested match between two very committed teams. Both sets of players showed good skills in attack and defence with good handling being displayed despite the muddy conditions.

The first score came after the hosts secured a line out position close to the Walsall line. Two line out drives were repelled by the visitors with them also having to endure some rather questionable rucking techniques. They were penalised on both occasions. Surprisingly, a yellow card was shown to lock forward Woodward.

Leek soon used their greater numbers to good effect as prop forward Smith was driven over for the try. The Walsall players, showed good character and made an immediate response. Robinson took the lineout ball, scrum half Pittaway made a good break, linked up with No. 8 Hickman who was brought down close to the Leek 22.

This time, it the visitors were awarded the penalty which Weston put over from 30 metres. The visitors tried to create some momentum and both Walker and Williamson made good attacking runs.

Unfortunately, an injury to full back Crowhurst forced Walsall to reshuffle their back division. During the final seven minutes of the half the hosts were again awarded another couple of penalties which Gary McDermott converted to give his team a 11 - 3 advantage at half-time.

The visitors produced some enterprising play early in the second half and eventually were awarded a penalty. Weston put over the thirty-five-metre kick to reduce the deficit. Unfortunately, the restart kick was not collected and the visitors were soon having to defend desperately. It was not long before they were penalised at the breakdown and McDermott added to his personal tally with a thirty metre kick.

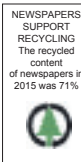
The crucial score came with only six minutes left to play. Once again, the Leek line out supplied the possession and after several drives and short passes, flanker Milner went over for the try which McDermott converted.

The final minutes saw Walsall play their best rugby as they made several drives towards their opponents' tryline. The hosts were penalised on at least three occasions, but surprisingly, on this occasion, no yellow cards were issued! Eventually it was young flanker Tom Thorley that crashed through the Leek defence for a score which Weston converted.

This Saturday Walsall will have to be at their very best if they are to maintain their perfect home record as the current league leaders, Stourbridge Lions, visit Delves Road.

★ ★ ★

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SADDLERS GET BOLTON BLAST

THERE have been plenty of reasons for Walsall fans to feel optimistic recently.

A five-match unbeaten run had seen Jon Whitney's side move to within four points of the play-offs.

But this bizarre clash in Bolton sums up why the Saddlers will probably miss out this year.

Frustratingly, they have left it a little too late, because over the course of a 46-game season days like this will happen. Half-time arrived at the Macron Stadium with neither team having created a chance of note.

Yet incredibly, Phil Parkinson's side walked in 3-1 up following an odd 45 minutes of football.

The madness started early on when, out of nothing, Erhun Oztumer gave Walsall the lead with a stunning strike from 40 yards. It was a goal similar to the one the 25-year-old netted at Swindon - with Oztumer spotting the keeper off his line.

Defending

A goal to the good, Walsall needed to shut up shop long enough for an anxious home crowd to get restless. But Bolton pulled level just 10 minutes later thanks to some poor Saddlers defending. After Wanderers had forced a corner, Gary Madine escaped the attention of Jason McCarthy.

And while the defender has to take the blame for allowing the striker to have a free header, Neil Etheridge will also be disappointed after staying rooted to his line.

The Philippines international comes for - and claims - more crosses than any other gloveman in League One. But his mistake in the win over Northampton was clearly playing on his mind here. Whitney will look at how Walsall deal with corners better. But there is little anyone could do about Bolton's second and third goals. The first saw James O'Connor slice a Jay Spearing cross into his own net.

And the defender's woes continued when, shortly after, Liam Trotter's strike from 25 yards deflected off his thigh before looping into the net.

Despite the loss, the form table has Walsall fifth in League One - with Whitney's men looking like a team capable of challenging for a place in the top six. But that may be more realistic next season.



Midfielder Erhun Oztumer, runs with the ball, alongside Florent Cuvelier at the Macron Stadium

Tribute to physio and 'proper gentleman'

TRIBUTES have poured in for Chasetown physio and 'proper gentlemen' Mick Andrews.

The 74-year-old, who 'treated thousands of players' over a long career in the West Midlands, died last Tuesday on the afternoon of the Scholars' 2-0 victory over Newcastle Town in the Staffordshire Senior Cup.

Andrews had been physio for Chasetown for roughly 12 years, and was at Willenhall Town before that.

"He's been ill for a few weeks now," said Chasetown boss Dave Stringer. "I don't think people knew how poorly he was. He was a proper gentleman and he'll be sadly missed

by everybody. He had time for everybody, and a smile for everybody. Our thoughts and prayers are with (wife) Carol and the family."

Stringer and chairman Mick Joiner are planning a fitting way to remember Andrews. Joiner said: "He was well-liked and respected by everyone."

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